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FBIS-EAS-90-216 CONTENTS *7 November 1990*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Kaifu Welcomes Release of Hostages From Iraq *[Tokyo TV]* 1
  More on Release of Hostages *[KYODO]* 1
  Spokesman Denies Deal With Iraq *[KYODO]* 2
Effort To Get UN Bill Through Diet Abandoned *[KYODO]* 2
  LDP, Opposition at Odds Over Bill *[Tokyo TV]* 3
  Watanabe Concerned Over Peace Bill *[Tokyo TV]* 3
Business Leaders Criticize SDF Dispatch Bill *[KYODO]* 3
Upper, Lower Houses Call for Relocation of Diet *[KYODO]* 4
'Ultraleftists' Claim Responsibility for Bombings *[KYODO]* 4
ROK Lawmakers View DPRK-Tokyo Rapprochement *[KYODO]* 4
Ministry Tags EC Trade Package 'Major Setback' *[KYODO]* 5
EC Not To Set Restrictions on Japanese Cars *[KYODO]* 5
Imported Vehicle Sales Rise From Oct '89 *[KYODO]* 6
3 Percent Growth in GNP Expected in FY91 *[KYODO]* 6
Recruit Subsidiary To Link With U.S. Firm *[KYODO]* 6
GATT Said Still Wide Apart Over TRIM Text *[KYODO]* 7
Sony Groups To Develop Software for New Media *[KYODO]* 7
Spokesman Says Dolphins Commit 'Mass Suicide' *[KYODO]* 7

North Korea

Red Cross Delegation Set To Go To Panmunjom *[KCNA]* 8
New South Dissident Groups Reported *[KCNA]* 8
South Korean Farmer's Suicide Attempt Reported *[KCNA]* 8
Yon Hyong-muk Congratulates Soviet Counterpart *[Pyongyang Radio]* 8
Soviet Envoy Hosts Vice-Premiers for Celebration *[KCNA]* 9
Dailies Comment on October Socialist Revolution *[KCNA]* 9
Government Delegation Returns From Cuba *[KCNA]* 10
KCNA Reviews 7 November Pyongyang Press *[KCNA]* 10
Chemical Fibre Output Increases by 20 Percent *[KCNA]* 11

South Korea

Editorial Examines Pyongyang-Tokyo Talks *[TONG-A ILBO 6 Nov]* 11
Improved Pyongyang-Canberra Ties Acceptable *[YONHAP]* 12
High Australian Official Reportedly in North *[HANGUK ILBO 3 Nov]* 13
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Criticized *[THE KOREA HERALD 6 Nov]* 13
U.S. Trade Pressure, 'Interference' Assailed *[SEOUL SINMUN 5 Nov]* 13
Complete Korean Fighter Project Review Urged *[HANGUK ILBO 5 Nov]* 15
Soviet Counterpart Visits Assembly Speaker *[YONHAP]* 15
Soviets Visit To Discuss Electronic Exports *[THE KOREA TIMES 6 Nov]* 15
Seoul To Post 15 in Beijing Trade Office *[YONHAP]* 16
Yugoslav President Views New Relationship *[Seoul TV]* 16
Yugoslav Postal Official Meets Vice Minister *[YONHAP]* 16
KTI Business in East Europe, USSR Expanding *[THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL 5 Nov]* .. 17
EC 'Antidumping Investigation' Reported *[THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL 5 Nov]* 17
Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference To Open *[THE KOREA HERALD 4 Nov]* 17

Foreign Missions in Seoul Predicted To Increase *[THE KOREA HERALD 7 Nov]* 17
Port To Be Developed for DPRK, Soviet Trade *[THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL 5 Nov]* . 18
Foreign Stores Plan Entrance Into Market *[YONHAP]* 18
Shipbuilding Industry Receives No New Orders *[YONHAP]* 18
Trade Fair Garners $488 Million in Orders *[YONHAP]* 19
Government Refuses To Liberalize Rice Imports *[THE KOREA HERALD 4 Nov]* 19
Editorial Urges Selective Access to North Films *[TONG-A ILBO 2 Nov]* 19
Chondaehyop Spokesman, Others Under NSP Probe *[THE KOREA HERALD 6 Nov]* 20
No, Kim Agree on Solving Factional Rift *[YONHAP]* 20
Kim Yong-sam Asks President No for Concession *[THE KOREA HERALD 4 NOV]* 21
Ruling Party Names New Secretary General *[YONHAP]* 21
Assistant Construction Minister Fired for Bribery *[YONHAP]* 22
Study Urges More Investment in Electronics Field *[YONHAP]* 22
Government To Rewrite Atomic Power Law *[THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL 5 Nov]* 22
* Fifth Republic Politicians Comeback Discussed 22
    * Resolve Hardening *[HANGUK ILBO 25 Aug]* 22
    * Friction Between Chon, No *[CHOSON ILBO 27 Aug]* 26

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

UN Human Rights Investigator Continues Visit 28
    Meets With Officials *[Rangoon Radio]* 28
    Meets Attorney General *[Rangoon Radio]* 28
    Obstruction of Inquiry Noted *[AFP]* 28
Lao Diplomat Meets With Narcotics Officials *[Rangoon Radio]* 29

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Radio Criticizes EC Resolution on Hardwood *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 29
    Deforestation Called Global Concern *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 29
Abu Hassan Talks With Danish Foreign Minister *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 30
King Receives Envoys' Credentials 6 Nov *[BERNAMA]* 30

Cambodia

Chea Sim Closes National Assembly Session *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 30
AFP: Phnom Penh Wants Factions at Meeting 33
'Senior Official' Says Amnesty to 24 Soldiers *[AFP]* 33
Hor Namhong Receives UNHCR Representative *[SPK]* 34
Soviet Cooperation, Aid Since 1979 Reviewed *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 34
Leaders Greet Newly Appointed Libyan Officials *[SPK]* 34
Son Sann Says To Make New Proposal 'Soon' *[Radio VOK]* 34

Indonesia

Government Rejects Fretilin Offer for Talks *[AFP]* 35
Ethiopian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 2 Nov *[ANTARA]* 36
Government 'Resolved' To Fight Rising Inflation *[AFP]* 36

Laos

Leaders Greet Soviet Counterparts on Revolution *[Vientiane Radio]* 36
Trade Union Group Departs for SRV, USSR *[KPL]* 37
Sali Vongkhamsao Receives Japanese Delegation *[KPL]* 37
Japanese Institute Presents Aid to Children *[KPL]* 37

Philippines

Communist Rebels Take U.S. Missionary Hostage *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 7 Nov]* 37
    Pursuit of Kidnappers Ordered *[Manila Radio]* 38
Bases Retention 'May' Mean Involvement in War *[Manila Radio]* 38
U.S. Military Bases Negotiations Resume 7 Nov *[Manila Radio]* 38
    U.S. Special Negotiator Arrives *[Manila Radio]* 38
    Negotiators Reportedly Pressured *[Manila Radio]* 38
    Bases Conditional Stay Supported *[Manila Radio]* 39
New Permit Facilitates Foreign Investors' Travel *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 7 Nov]* 39
Mitra Formally Announces Presidential Bid *[Manila Radio]* 40
Defense Department's Problems Include Funding *[Manila Radio]* 40
Exclusion of PC Trainees From Rite Protested *[Manila Radio]* 40
Communist Rebels Burn Vehicles in Davao 5 Nov *[MANILA BULLETIN 7 Nov]* 40
Quezon Clash Reported; NPA Rebel Arrested *[Manila Radio]* 40
Rebels Gunned Down After Killing Policeman *[MANILA BULLETIN 7 Nov]* 41
'Failure' in Counterinsurgency Drive Discussed *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 7 Nov]* 41
Urban Guerrillas Accused of 'Random Violence' *[AFP]* 41
    More on 'Urgent Instruction No 2' *[Manila Radio]* 42
Two Killed, Nine Wounded in Bombing Incident *[Quezon City Radio]* 42
MNLF Officer, Aide Captured in Palawan *[MANILA BULLETIN 7 Nov]* 42

Thailand

Minister Reviews Talks With PRC Leaders *[THE NATION 7 Nov]* 42
Australian Envoy Leaves After Cambodia Talks *[AFP]* 43
Radio Truck Incident Still Creating Problems 44
    Army Commander Interviewed *[Bangkok TV]* 44
    Minister Receives Bomb Threats *[THE NATION 7 Nov]* 44
    Destination: Chitlada Palace *[Bangkok Radio]* 45
Daily on Mistrust Between Military, Politicians *[BANGKOK POST 7 Nov]* 45
Police Seize 'Hijacked' Thai Rubber Cargo Ship *[THE NATION 7 Nov]* 45
Lao Leader Calls for Crackdown on 'Reactionaries' *[THE NATION 7 Nov]* 46
USSR Official on Trade Ties With Thailand *[THE NATION 7 Nov]* 46
Cabinet Approves Caltex Oil Refinery Project *[BANGKOK POST 7 Nov]* 47

Vietnam

Sovereignty Over Spratly Islands Reaffirmed *[AFP]* 47
Visitors Detained, Fined in Ho Chi Minh City *[SAIGON GIAI PHONG 6 Oct]* 48
Anniversary of October Revolution Celebrated *[Hanoi Radio]* 48
    Leaders Send Message to Counterparts *[Hanoi Radio]* 49
    Soviets Greeted *[VNA]* 49
Vietnamese-Lao Relations, Friendship Hailed *[Hanoi Radio]* 50
Chairmen Receive Outgoing Burmese Ambassador *[Hanoi Radio]* 50
People's Council Outlines Socioeconomic Tasks *[Hanoi Radio]* 50
War Veterans Association of Hanoi Set Up *[Hanoi Radio]* 51
Debate on Army Depoliticization, Part One *[Hanoi Radio]* 51
General Pays Visits to 1st, 2d Military Regions *[Hanoi Radio]* 52
Ho Chi Minh City Organization Reviews Tasks *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
Campaign Launched To Boost Renovation Process *[Hanoi International]* 53
U.S. Pilot's Rescue, Meeting With Ho Recalled *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
More on Goodwill Ambassador Visit *[VNA]* 54
Country Explores Various Cooperation Venues *[VNA]* 54
Paper Examines Emergence of Criticism of History *[Hanoi Radio]* 54

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Mediator Secures Release of Two Hostages *[Melbourne International]* 57
Air Force Operation With New Zealand Announced *[AFP]* 57

Fiji

Soldiers Plead Guilty to Abduction of Lecturer *[AFP]* 57

New Calédonia

Incumbent Reelected Head of Proindependence Party *[AFP]* 58

New Zealand

Former Premier To Make Hostage Release Bid *[AFP]* 58
Island State Said Tricked Into Signing Treaty *[AFP]* 58
Budget Deficit To Reach 1 Billion Dollars *[AFP]* 59

Papua New Guinea

Indonesians May Get 'Hot Pursuit Rights' *[Melbourne International]* 60

Western Samoa

Opposition Claims Conspiracy in Voting Rights *[AFP]* 60

Japan

Kaifu Welcomes Release of Hostages From Iraq

OW0711055690 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, testifying before the House of Representatives Special Committee on UN Peace Cooperation today, said that the repatriation of some of the Japanese hostages and residents detained in Iraq is gratifying. At the same time, he stressed that Japan would continue exerting tenacious efforts for a fundamental resolution of the Gulf crisis.

The prime minister made these remarks to the Special Committee on UN Peace Cooperation, called into session this morning in reply to a question raised by Hiromu Nonaka, representative of the Liberal Democratic Party. In his reply, Prime Minister Kaifu said that those to be released have so far been deprived of their freedoms and that their release is gratifying both to themselves as well as to their families.

Mr. Kaifu, however, stressed that, when the feelings of those who are left behind are taken into consideration, a fundamental resolution becomes necessary. He said this means that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and releases all the hostages at the earliest possible date under the principles set forth in the UN resolution. He then stressed that Japan will continue exerting tenacious efforts to that end.

More on Release of Hostages

OW0711052390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0504 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7 KYODO—Japan's former prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, has received an Iraqi promise to free 79 of 305 Japanese civilians trapped in Iraq or Kuwait after the August 2 invasion, Japanese officials said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Iraq's state-run INA news agency has reported that besides the Japanese nationals, Husayn allowed the departure of 29 Westerners, 20 Italians, five Swedes, two Portuguese and two Germans.

The officials from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on the Nakasone trip denied there was a written pledge for the release, rejecting Iraqi demands for a joint communique of non-aggression against Iraq.

The 79 people include 26 from a group of 139 Japanese who were taken hostage under Iraq's category of "foreign guests." They were detained as "human shields" against attack from multinational forces at strategic military and industrial facilities in Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Most of the 79 people will fly to Tokyo with Nakasone and the LDP mission, but the group includes one person whose release requires clearance by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Wednesday. The Japanese are scheduled to leave Baghdad later Wednesday and arrive in Tokyo on Thursday, via Bangkok, the officials said.

The 79 Japanese are mainly employees of major firms who were in Iraq or Kuwait when Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2. The companies include Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Mitsui and Co., C. Itoh and Co., Arabian Oil Co., Toshiba Corp., Nissho Iwai Corp., Japan Airlines Co., Taisei Corp., Mitsubishi Electric Co., Toyo Engineering Corp, and Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co.

On Wednesday morning, 25 of the released men celebrated their release at a Baghdad hotel. Previously, the Iraqi authorities had taken them from the hotel after Japanese Government officials led them to escape invaded Kuwait.

Sources said it was believed Iraq released the Japanese on the condition that they were either suffering from disease or aged 51 or over.

Mitsuo Ohno, 51, a Japan Airlines official at Kuwait Airport, told reporters he was at a factory 30 kilometers north of Baghdad. He said the "bird-cage" life caused serious mental pressure and major weight loss, and he had chronic high blood pressure.

Haruo Tamai, 53, Kuwait office chief of C. Itoh and Co., said he was put in a petroleum factory 230 kilometers north of the Iraqi capital, along with Britons, Americans, and French, and deprived of basic freedoms. He said now he is worried about the fate of the fellow Western hostages, and they encouraged each other by exchanging information and daily necessities.

Masahiko Iizuka, 38, of Japan Airlines' Athens office, who was trapped in Kuwait and then taken to a place near the Iraq-Iran border, said he still cannot believe he is being released, as he had been "cheated" many times.

The Iraqi move coincided with Nakasone and the LDP mission's call for the release of as many Japanese as possible, who are believed to be detained in strategic points in Iraq as "human shields," or those people not allowed to leave either Iraq or invaded Kuwait. But four Japanese originally on the list of those to be released, including Masahiro Tofukuji of Tomen Corp., the president of the Japanese community in Iraq, have refused to be released. They said they will not leave Iraq because many other Japanese citizens are still being held as hostages or trapped in the country, the officials said. The four have been replaced.

Since their arrival in Baghdad last Saturday, Nakasone and his delegation have held a series of talks with Iraq's President Saddam Husayn and National Assembly chairman Sa'di Mahdi Salih, in charge of the hostages issue. The Japanese have sought the release of all foreign hostages.

A Japanese member of the House of Representatives, Koko Sato, the LDP delegation chief, told reporters he has been relieved by the number of Japanese that Iraq is freeing, which "would be appreciated by Japanese people."

The release of detained citizens is the first since October 18, when four Japanese nationals were freed due to ill health. But Sato said the visit would not be the last, pledging the party's continued efforts to ask Iraq to free Japanese detainees. He said Iraq's governing Ba'ath Party has persistently demanded that the two sides sign a joint statement. Sato said the Japanese side refused the offer, even considering the worst scenario in which Iraq would not set free a single Japanese.

Meanwhile, Nakasone met with former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, who arrived to gain the release of German people, and agreed that world leaders should have frequent meetings to seek a peaceful solution to the current Persian Gulf crisis.

Spokesman Denies Deal With Iraq

OW0711041590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto denied Wednesday that Japan made a deal with Iraq to secure the release of more Japanese hostages.

"America, Britain, and the European Community have taken the position that they will not directly negotiate over the hostages, and our government has followed the same basic position," Sakamoto told a regularly scheduled news conference. He also denied news reports that former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone may have linked a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis with progress toward Arab-Israeli peace in talks with President Saddam Husayn.

The top government spokesman told reporters Nakasone pledged before his departure that he would demand the unconditional release of Japanese and all other hostages. "It is unthinkable that there was any linkage," Sakamoto said. But he said he would discuss the matter after Nakasone's return Thursday with the Japanese citizens who have been released. Those allowed to leave were among 305 Japanese citizens detained in Iraq.

A high government source said that the government has not been fully informed of the contents of Nakasone's discussions with Iraqi leaders, and that any promises made would not be binding because the former prime minister has been acting only in a personal capacity.

Sakamoto told reporters the international community is aware that Iraq may be trying to weaken international solidarity by releasing some hostages, and said that the nations involved would resist the attempt.

In a prepared statement Sakamoto welcomed the release of the Japanese, and reiterated a call for the immediate release of all hostages. He also confirmed Japan's committment to abide by United Nations resolutions seeking the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, speaking to reporters, said Japan would continue to press for the release of the remaining Japanese and the thousands of Westerners still being held in Iraq.

Effort To Get UN Bill Through Diet Abandoned

OW0611144190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1422 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have abandoned their attempt to get the controversial U.N. peace cooperation bill through the LDP- controlled House of Representatives at the current Diet session, government and party sources said Tuesday. The current extraordinary session of the Diet is due to expire Saturday.

The bill, designed to create a U.N. Peace Cooperation Corps which would include noncombat members of the country's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to help in international peacekeeping efforts, has been the central issue during the monthlong session.

All opposition parties are strongly opposed to the bill, saying the overseas dispatch of the SDF personnel runs counter to Japan's war-renouncing Constitution.

The LDP has a comfortable majority in the powerful 512-lower house but it holds only 113 seats in the 252-member House of Councillors, 13 short of a simple majority. The bill needs to be approved by both chambers of the Diet to become law.

Bolstered by an LDP victory in Sunday's upper house by-election in Aichi Prefecture, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa reaffirmed their plan Monday to see the bill through the lower house before the Diet session ends.

LDP and government leaders, however, have since abandoned plans to call for a vote on the bill at the plenary session of the lower chamber to avoid causing unnecessary friction with the opposition parties, according to the sources.

Instead, the LDP leadership is considering setting up of a consultative body by the ruling and opposition parties to continue discussions on concrete measures to contribute [to] the U.N. Peacekeeping activities.

The LDP will call on the opposition camp to establish the body through talks among the chairmen and secretaries general of the various parties, the sources said.

Kaifu also hinted the same day in a special committee of the lower chamber of the government's abandonment of efforts for the passage of the bill.

In response to questions posed by opposition members of the lower house, Kaifu said he wants the ruling and opposition parties to deepen their discussions on how Japan can contribute to international peacekeeping efforts within its legal framework.

Atsuo Kudo, director general of the cabinet Legislative Bureau, told the same committee that Japan could take part in U.N. peacekeeping operations under the war-renouncing Constitution if such activities do not include the use of force.

He cited monitoring ceasefires and supervising elections as activities that Japan could join.

Kudo also said Japan could set up an independent standing unit to contribute to U.N. peacekeeping operations within the current legal restraints if the use of force is among its functions. Kudo, however, added that it is impossible for Japan to participate in U.N. peacekeeping forces because its members sometimes carry light arms to prevent conflict from resuming.

Kudo made the remarks in response to questions by Ichiro Watanabe, a lower house member of Komeito, the nation's second-largest opposition party.

LDP, Opposition at Odds Over Bill

OW0711062190 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] At a board of directors meeting of the House of Representatives Special Committee on UN Peace Cooperation held this morning, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] maintained that since sufficient deliberations have been held on the proposed UN Peace Cooperation Bill, the bill should be put to a vote promptly.

The opposition, however, asserted that the bill has not yet been adequately deliberated. It said that it would refuse to take part in committee deliberations unless the LDP guarantees that there would be no voting today.

Committee Chairman Koichi Kato stated that he wants to refer important matters to the board of directors as has been the practice thus far. The special committee then began deliberations as scheduled.

The government and the LDP have already given up hope for passage of the bill through the House of Representatives and now want to hold talks with the opposition by opening government-opposition consultations on a new bill concerning Japan's contributions to the United Nations. Some quarters in the LDP believe that the subject should be taken up at government-opposition negotiations by terminating the special committee deliberations. While taking this position, the LDP plans to decide on its strategies after seeing how the opposition reacts. All in all, tension is expected to mount gradually in the Diet.

Watanabe Concerned Over Peace Bill

OW0711064390 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Policy Research Council, has expressed concern over possible international criticism of Japan should the proposed UN Peace Cooperation Bill become null and void.

Watanabe expressed his concern at a general meeting of the LDP's Watanabe faction, which was convened this morning. He said he is afraid that, if the bill should be rejected, Japan might be subject to international criticism from all other countries.

Business Leaders Criticize SDF Dispatch Bill

OW0611141990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Several Japanese business leaders criticized on Tuesday government-proposed legislation which would allow Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to be sent overseas to cooperate in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Takashi Ishihara, president of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), told a press conference that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is "putting the cart before the horse" in proposing the overseas dispatch of SDF personnel instead of discussing a revision of the Constitution prohibiting it.

"The Constitution and the SDF Law should be revised according to changes in people's opinions. On that basis, discussions (on revision of the Constitution) should initially be made," said Ishihara, who is chairman of Nissan Motor Co.

Ishihara made his comments in view of the certain defeat the government-proposed U.N. peace cooperation corps bill faces in the opposition-controlled House of Councillors.

Kaneo Nakamura, vice president of Keizai Doyukai, echoed Ishihara's opinion, saying the government should not adhere strictly to a Constitution which was "imposed" on Japan by postwar occupation authorities. Nakamura is president of the Industrial Bank of Japan.

Ryuzaburo Kaku, also vice president of the influential business organization, said the government's certain failure to pass the legislation would result from long-term negligence of the defense issue. "You should distinguish between Self-Defense Forces and troops against invaders like Iraq," said Kaku, who is also chairman of Canon Inc.

Upper, Lower Houses Call for Relocation of Diet

OW0711043690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7 KYODO—In an unprecedented move, the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors both adopted resolutions Wednesday calling for relocation of the Diet, Japan's parliament, outside Tokyo to alleviate the excessive centralization of political and economic functions in the capital.

The House of Representatives resolution said the concentration of political and economic functions in Tokyo has resulted in overpopulation and abnormal land price rises in the city and produced stagnation in regional economies. It urged the transfer of not only the legislature but also government facilities, in order to combat excessive centralization, rectify distortions which have had a nationwide impact, and establish political and administrative functions appropriate for the 21st century.

The resolution called on the government to make efforts to realize the relocation of the Diet and related government facilities. All legislators, except for members of the Japan Communist Party, favored the resolution. There is a plan to set up a special committee in the Lower House to consider the Diet relocation, officials said.

Diet resolutions have no legal binding force.

The relocation of the nation's capital has been debated since the 1960s and various proposals have been forwarded and later abandoned since then. An interparty consultative body was formed at the Diet in 1975 to discuss relocation of the legislature and the creation of a new metropolis. The group, led by former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, adopted a resolution in 1987 calling for the promotion of discussions on transfer of the capital's functions as the most important task for building the nation in the 21st century.

The government decided in the summer of last year to transfer 76 facilities of government agencies away from Tokyo.

The present Diet building stands on a hill in midtown Tokyo near the Imperial Palace. The 206-meter long symmetrical structure was completed in 1936, 17 years after construction work began. The 65-meter high pyramidal central tower is the Diet building's major identifying feature.

'Ultraleftists' Claim Responsibility for Bombings

OW0711025490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7 KYODO—A secretive ultraleftist group, the Revolutionary Workers' Council (Kakurokyo), claimed responsibility Wednesday for a bomb attack on a police dormitory last week which killed one policeman and injured five other people.

Two explosions, which occurred within five minutes of each other, ripped Seiwa-ryo, a police dormitory of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, in Shinjuku on the night of November 1. One police officer was killed by the first blast and the second injured three police officers and two other people.

Police have made no arrests but investigators had suspected the Revolutionary Workers' Council was behind the bombings because the group had claimed responsibility for a similar bomb attack at a police station in Chiba Prefecture in September 1988.

On the same day of the Shinjuku bomb explosion, two homemade bombs were found at another police dormitory in Tokyo's Setagaya Ward. The bombs went off as police bomb squads were trying to defuse them. There were no injuries in the Setagaya blasts.

The Revolutionary Workers' Council is a small organization with an open membership of about 300. The group also is known to have an underground band of about 30 members.

ROK Lawmakers View DPRK-Tokyo Rapprochement

OW0611152190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—A visiting delegation of South Korean lawmakers said Tuesday the rapprochement between Tokyo and Pyongyang is proceeding too rapidly and expressed concern that future financial assistance could be used to bolster the North's military might.

In a meeting of the parliamentarians' leagues of the two countries, six legislators from Seoul indicated their surprise and dismay at the rapid pace of negotiations under way between Tokyo and Pyongyang, Japanese sources said.

Chong Sung-mo, leader of the delegation and a member of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, was quoted as saying Seoul is most concerned about the possibility that future Japanese aid to the North might be used for military purposes.

Chong said the South has reason to believe that items such as clothing and communications equipment are already falling into the hands of Pyongyang's military, according to Shinya Totsuka, a House of Representatives member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Nine Japanese representatives, including LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Mutsuki Kato and two opposition lawmakers, said Japan's policy is not to export items to the North that could be used for military purposes.

The Seoul lawmakers added, however, that improved Tokyo-Pyongyang tie should help open the North to the rest of the world and prevent "communization" of the South. They also said the two leagues must work more closely to guarantee continued friendship between Tokyo and Seoul, Totsuka said.

Legislators from the two countries focused much of their attention on ways of ending legal discrimination against resident Koreans, as promised when President No Tae-u visited Japan in May.

About 680,000 Korean residents, including those who were forcibly brought to Japan as cheap labor under Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea and their descendants, do not have the right to vote in Japan. They are also required to be fingerprinted if aged 16 or older as foreign nationals. Koreans complain they must also endure job discrimination in Japan.

Since No's visit, Japanese officials have said they will take a flexible approach when enforcing laws pertaining to Korean residents.

Totsuka said both sides at Tuesday's talks agreed on the need to devise an alternative to identification cards for Korean residents.

Earlier in the day, the South Korean team met former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who chairs the Japan-South Korea Parliamentarians' League. Takeshita said he hopes that the legal status of Korean residents could be improved by early next year.

The 1965 Japan-South Korea protocol states that the two nations must decide on the status of third-generation residents and younger Koreans by January 16, 1991.

The South Koreans also met Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama, Home Affairs Minister Keiwa Okuda, and Education Minister Kosuke Hori.

They asked that more Korean residents be employed as public servants, enjoy voting rights, and receive sufficient ethnic education as Koreans in Japan, Totsuka said.

But Okuda, who supervises police affairs, said the issue of voting rights for Korean residents is a "theme for the next century." He also said he personally favors using photos as an alternative to fingerprinting in identifying Korean residents.

Okuda also told the South Korean lawmakers that he expects many more Korean residents to become public servants other than "police and tax officers," Totsuka quoted him as saying.

There are currently 400 Korean residents in Japan who work in public service.

Hori, meanwhile, admitted the need for better ethnic education and promised a gradual improvement, adding his ministry would coordinate with other government agencies to promote the hiring of Koreans as school teachers, Totsuka said.

The next meeting between parliamentarians from the two countries is expected to be held in Seoul on November 19-20, he added.

Ministry Tags EC Trade Package 'Major Setback'

OW0711043990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7 KYODO—The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry said Wednesday a farm trade reform package agreed upon by the European Community (EC) Tuesday is too modest to satisfy the United States and other farm exporting nations.

"The package is a major setback from the original offer made by the EC Commission. It is inevitable for the proposal to draw strong criticism from the U.S. and other farm exporters," a ministry official said.

Agricultural and trade ministers of the 12-nation trading bloc approved a 30 percent cut in farm support over the 10 years beginning in 1986, basically as recommended by the EC's executive body.

But the agreement is modest compared with the commission's original proposal and includes a list of conditions which were apparently introduced at the urging of Germany and France, countries which are anxious to limit the adverse effects of the changes upon their farmers, the officials said.

EC Not To Set Restrictions on Japanese Cars

OW0611144590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—The European Community (EC) will not restrict sales of Japanese cars manufactured in the community after 1992 market integration, a Vice President of the EC Commission visiting here said Tuesday.

Martin Bangemann, who is responsible for international marketing and industrial affairs for the EC, also said the EC is not considering a local content requirement for Japanese auto factories in Europe. Bangemann spoke at a news conference after giving a speech at an international conference on "Management Innovation" held in Tokyo on Monday.

EC imports of Japanese cars have been a thorny issue in the bilateral trade relationship. At issue is whether cars made at Japanese factories in Europe should be regulated as foreign-made cars or treated as locally made cars, during a proposed "transitional period" to be set after 1992 market integration. The period was proposed to give European automakers time to prepare for full competition.

Bangemann admitted there are different attitudes among the EC member countries. Countries like Britain say no regulation is necessary, while other countries like Italy, France, and Spain want restrictions. Bangemann said, however, Japanese cars manufactured in the EC should in principle be guaranteed the freedom to sell throughout the European market without restrictions.

On the proposed transitional period, he said a good compromise between Japan and the EC now appears to be around 1998.

The EC Commission vice president also said there would be no local content requirement for Japanese auto factories in the community.

Terming local content regulations "economically foolish," Bangemann said companies which make an investment in the community are willing to buy local products after a certain period since they have to meet on-time supply contracts in the market.

Touching on the other trade issues between the EC and Japan, Bangemann said there is no direct linkage between trade in autos and other products.

A senior official of the commission hinted in Tokyo a few weeks ago that treatment of Japanese cars made in the EC could depend on how Japan opens its market for Europe's processed food, fish, leather, and other products in line with the EC's request. The EC is asking Japan to open its market for such products to reduce its trade deficit, he said.

Bangemann said some EC products, including aircraft, have low market shares in Japan, and urged further efforts by Japan to open its market.

Imported Vehicle Sales Rise From Oct '89

OW0611073590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0644 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Imported vehicle sales in October jumped 26.0 percent to 16,755 from a year earlier, after showing a growth of only 1.3 percent in September, the Japan Automobile Importers' Association said reported Tuesday. The figure is a record high for the month of October.

The association said the steep growth was mainly because some automakers supplied the new 1991 models, which boosted demand. Auto importers generally expect business will be stable through this year, it said.

Interest rates, however, are in a rising trend and the situation in the Persian Gulf is uncertain, both of which factors could adversely affect the trade, the association said.

In October, sales of imported passenger cars rose 26.0 percent to 16,583, with the sales of medium-sized cars jumping 31 percent to 9,206. Sales of small-sized cars rose by 20.2 percent to 7,377.

Sales of trucks came to 172, up 36.5 percent.

Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and the Volkswagen Audi Group were the three most popular makers. Such makers as Volvo marketing new models also showed increased sales, the association said.

3 Percent Growth in GNP Expected in FY91

OW0711113090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7 KYODO—Japan's gross national product (GNP) is expected to grow about 3 percent in fiscal 1991, beginning April 1991, down from the estimated 5 percent growth rate in the current fiscal year, the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan predicted Wednesday.

The slowdown was blamed on higher crude oil prices and rising interest rates, the bank said. Its economists added that the economy will peak before next summer, and that it is unlikely that the recent economic boom will last longer than the so-called "izanagi" period of economic expansion that ran from November 1965 through July 1970, the longest boom on record.

The economists listed three main reasons for the slowdown in GNP growth: a drop in consumption triggered by rising prices, sagging capital and housing investments resulting from high interest rates and low stock prices, and sluggish exports. The bank expects consumer prices to rise 4 percent next fiscal year.

The pessimistic outlook was based on assumptions that crude oil prices will stay in a range of 25 to 30 dollars per barrel and that the U.S. economy will grow one percent in 1990 and 1991.

The bank's study said anxiety over petroleum supplies from the Middle East is expected to remain a factor even if substantial peace talks begin with Baghdad and oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait are resumed.

Recruit Subsidiary To Link With U.S. Firm

OW0711031590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0232 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7 KYODO—Recruit International Van Co., a subsidiary of Recruit Co., plans to start a facsimile transmission service between Japan and the United States next February in a business link with Sprint International Communication Corp., one of the top U.S. Value-Added Network (VAN) firms, the Tokyo-based company said Wednesday.

Recruit International Van Co. has applied to the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry for permission for the planned mutual use of the networks of the two firms.

The Japanese firm has been conducting a facsimile transmission service between the two countries through its New York subsidiary. The company hopes the tie-up with Sprint International Communication will make its service from Japan cheaper in more areas in the United States.

GATT Said Still Wide Apart Over TRIM Text

OW0611144790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—The industrial and developing countries are still unable to agree on trade-related investment measures (TRIM), one of 15 negotiating subjects in the Uruguay Round of global free trade talks, a high-ranking official at the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Last-ditch working negotiations over TRIM are currently under way, prior to the ministerial-level meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) slated for early December in Brussels, the official said.

The Uruguay Round, which started four years ago, is scheduled to conclude at the Brussels meeting.

The so-called TRIM are the special requirements that governments attach when giving permission for foreign investment in their countries. The current TRIM talks cover 10 kinds of such measures, including "local content" requirements and the requirement that a certain portion of production by foreign concerns be sold on the domestic market. Six of the 10 types of TRIM are prohibited by current GATT rules.

Industrial countries, contending that all such measures distort and restrict trade, have been insisting that they should be banned altogether.

Developing countries, fearful that their fledging industries may crumble without TRIM protection against strong competition from industrial countries, have been dead set against such a sweeping ban on TRIM. They argue that TRIM should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, with restrictions confined to cases where it is clear that the TRIM in question are having "trade restrictive and distorting effects."

The current "final" text, being prepared by chairman of the TRIM negotiation group, includes both the positions of industrial countries and of developing countries, and also the stance of the "moderate" developing countries, which is a mixture between the two, according to the Foreign Ministry official.

The "moderates" among developing countries say part of the six kinds of TRIM that are prohibited by GATT regulations should be banned, while the remaining four should be treated on a case-by-case basis.

The three positions currently have equal status because all efforts to bridge the difference between the industrial and developing parties have failed so far, the official said.

The negotiating group responsible for TRIM will continue its efforts to hammer out an agreement until the last minute, but most of the latest text will likely end up on the negotiation table at the Brussels meeting largely intact, the official said. The greatest likelihood is that the middle-ground position will be adopted as the new GATT ruling on TRIM, he said.

Sony Groups To Develop Software for New Media

OW0511092490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 5 KYODO—CBS Sony Group plans to develop software with Sony Corp. for the new advanced media of the future, such as broadcasting satellites and computers connected to audio-visual equipment, an industry source said Monday.

These so-called "next generation media" are in the process of rapid development, with high-definition television systems, for instance, expected to become popular in five to 10 years' time.

According to the source, CBS Sony's main project at this point is to develop software for advanced digital recording equipment for compact disks (CDs). Sony is expected to be the first company to market the equipment in Japan next year.

The source added the project also means CBS Sony can boost and diversify its operations after April next year when it changes its name to Sony Music Entertainment Inc. Sony announced last month that it had agreed with U.S. broadcasting network CBS Inc. to change its name when it acquired CBS Records Inc. in America in 1988 from its parent broadcasting company.

CBS Sony's annual sales in fiscal 1989 totaled 78.9 billion yen, of which 70 percent was from software sales of CDs and cassette recorders.

Spokesman Says Dolphins Commit 'Mass Suicide'

OW0611121290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Some 582 dolphins reportedly slaughtered by Japanese fishermen over the weekend in fact committed "mass suicide," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Taizo Watanabe told foreign correspondents that the fishermen of Miiraku, a town on Fukue Island in Nagasaki Prefecture, made "utmost efforts" to drive the herd of large-bodied Risso's dolphins away from the island's shoreline. "But the dolphins came back and they just landed on the shore and died," Watanabe said. "There is a possibility they could have suffered from some unknown disease and lost their sense of direction."

The spokesman's version of the incident was at odds with local officials' accounts that the Fukue fishermen made a conscious attempt to drive the dolphins into the bay so they could be slaughtered for their meat and to eliminate competition for fish. "It is the natural right of human beings to catch what inflicts damage to us," Miiraku Mayor Yaoto Tatemoto told reporters Monday. The incident has been given worldwide publicity similar to when Japanese fishermen slaughtered up to a thousand dolphins in a bay on Iki Island in Nagasaki Prefecture in 1978.

Watanabe said a group of boats on the way back from a fishing excursion early Friday evening encountered a large school of dolphins and tried to drive them away from a Fukue Island bay. "But the dolphins could not be turned away," he said. The spokesman said the next morning hundreds of dolphins were found either beached on the shore or swimming in the bay. He said attempts to expel those still alive from the bay were to no avail. A local police spokesman said Monday the dolphins were chased onto the beach and clubbed to death.

Watanabe said those fishermen who wanted to cut up the dolphins for their meat were allowed to do so, while the excess dolphins were buried.

Fisheries Agency records show Japanese fishermen killed 29,048 dall porpoises for food in 1989, almost three times the 10,378 killed in 1985. Risso's dolphin meat is less popular.

Watanabe suggested that the dolphins' alleged beaching could have been caused by a malfunctioning of their ability to detect ultrasonic waves, possibly due to an inner ear infection. The spokesman said that while dolphins are a "nuisance" to Japanese fishermen, they are basically viewed as "lovable animals." He said there would be "no problem" if sea mammals approached the shoreline "just for play, to swim around and go out."

North Korea

Red Cross Delegation Set To Go To Panmunjom

SK0711101190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 7 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, sent a telephone message to president of the South Korean Red Cross Kim Sang-hyop Tuesday.

We deem it a good luck that we have received an affirmative reply of your side to our proposal to resume the Red Cross working-level contact between the North and the South which has been suspended, the message says, and continues:

There is no change in our stand for fulfilling at an early date the urgent and noble humanitarian and national tasks to lessen the misfortunes and sufferings of the fellow countrymen living separated in the North and the South and promote national reunification.

Proceeding from this stand, we will send our side's delegation to North-South Red Cross working-level contact to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 10:00 on November 8 [date as received].

New South Dissident Groups Reported

SK0711044390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 7 (KCNA)—A Student Committee for the promotion of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, abrogation of the "National Security Law" and release of those who visited the North for reunification (Hakchuwi) and a special committee for smashing the scheme to stabilize the fascist ruling system and winning people's rallies were inaugurated at Seoul University on October 19, according to a KNS report.

In the inaugural declaration Hakchuwi made it clear that the immediate fighting program is to struggle to smash the plot for "South Korea's unilateral entry into the United Nations," have the "National Security Law" scrapped and those who visited the North for reunification released and achieve an independent, civilian reunification. It stressed that "the people, the driving force of history, should directly turn out in this struggle."

Hakchuwi also called for the adoption of a non-aggression declaration between the North and the South.

The special committee said in a resolution that the "declaration of war against crimes" by the No Tae-u "regime" clearly revealed its intention to intensify the fascist suppression of the student and labour movements and stressed that the progressive forces should declare a total war against fascism to cope with it.

South Korean Farmer's Suicide Attempt Reported

SK0711044790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 7 (KCNA)—Yi Kyong-hui, delegate of the South Korean "association of successors to peasants and fishermen", attempted suicide by disembowelling himself in front of the Headquarters of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva on November 5, according to a report.

The report said he disembowelled himself after staging a demonstration together with his fellow delegates in front of the headquarters where a negotiation demanding the opening of the South Korean markets of agricultural and livestock products was being held.

This fact shows that the South Korean peasants' resentment against the U.S. imperialists' demand for market opening and the authorities' submission to it has reached the extreme point.

Yon Hyong-muk Congratulates Soviet Counterpart

SK0711010790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The message expressed warm congratulations on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and continued: The October Socialist Revolution, which was carried out by the working class and the working masses under the leadership of Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, was an epochal event which opened a new era in the development of history. I take this opportunity to wish you and the Soviet people success in the work to strengthen the economic might of the country and to achieve the promotion of the people's welfare. Also I express the firm conviction that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union will favorably develop in the future, in conformity with the interests of the people of the two countries.

Soviet Envoy Hosts Vice-Premiers for Celebration

SK0611153690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—Gennadiy Bartoshevich, Soviet ambassdor to Korea, hosted a reception this evening at his embassy on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution.

Invited there were Vice-premier Kang Hui-won, Vice-premier Kim Hwan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were made at the reception.

Dailies Comment on October Socialist Revolution

SK0711050390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate editorials to the 73rd anniversary of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia.

The editorial of NODONG SINMUN reads in full:

Today is the 73rd anniversary of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia.

73 years ago, the Russian working class overthrew the anti-popular tsarist despotic system and won victory in the Socialist Revolution under the leadership of Lenin and the Bolshevik party. The October Socialist Revolution was a historical event that brought about fundamental changes in the life of the Russian working class and people.

It was the October Revolution that gave birth to a new-type socialist state, the first of its kind in human history, whose masters are the labouring masses including workers and peasants who had been groaning in chains of capital and which defends their interests and it was the October Revolution that opened the way for the working masses to build an independent and free, new society free from exploitation and oppression while shaping their destiny by themselves.

The October Revolution smashed the myth of "eternity of capitalism" and ushered in a new era of epoch-making changes in the transition of mankind from capitalism to socialism. It made a breach in the capitalist front for the first time in history and dealt a telling blow at the world capitalism and started a new history whereby the world working class and other labouring masses daringly rose in the struggle for class and national liberation.

The victory of the October Revolution was an immortal feat of world historical significance performed by Lenin and the Bolshevik Party and the Russian working class for the exploited peoples and oppressed nations.

After the October Revolution the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have waged an indescribably arduous struggle to defend socialism and consolidate and develop it. Soviet socialism is a priceless fruit gained by the Soviet people at the cost of their blood and sweat from generation to generation.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"As it was the case with the communist movement in the past, so at the present and in the future, too, the revolutionary cause of the working class will advance triumphantly under the guidance of the leader."

The revolutionary struggle of the working class is pioneered and carried to victory under the guidance of its leader.

If Lenin, the leader of the working class, had not developed Marxism from the creative point of view to advance Leninism, the theory, strategy and tactics of the proletarian revolution in the imperialist era, and had not roused the Russian working class to the revolutionary struggle for socialism, the October Revolution could not have triumphed and the first socialist state in the world would have failed to come into being.

The process of development of world socialism since the October Revolution also goes to clearly prove once again the truth that the leader plays the decisive role in the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of the working class.

History has advanced a long way since the victory in the October Socialist Revolution. However, the protracted struggle between socialism and imperialism in the international arena not only goes on but also gets fiercer as days go by.

Terrified by the growth of socialist might, the imperialists have left no stones unturned in their bid to obliterate socialism and, in particular, they are these days desperately resorting to the "peaceful transition" strategy to undermine socialism. They are trying to strangulate socialism and revive capitalism in such a way as to benumb the people's revolutionary consciousness through their ideological and cultural infiltration, buy them economically with "aid" as a bait and create social and political confusion by instigating anti-socialist elements. Subsequently, unexpected, complicated events have taken place in a number of countries and the people's cause of socialism now faces a grave challenge.

The attempt of the imperialists to block the development of socialism and turn it back to the road of capitalism is an anti-historical, anti-popular and foolish dream. The purpose of the imperialists, the reaction of history, is to maintain the old society where exploitation and oppression of man by man hold sway, while the desire of the popular masses, the makers of history, is to build a new society where all the people enjoy an independent and creative life as masters of the state and society, being responsible for their own destiny, free from exploitation and oppression. The road to socialism is an untrodden path. Hence, socialism may confront difficulties and undergo temporary turns and twists in the course of its advance. It is, however, an immovable law of history that human society develops from capitalism to socialism. Only when we advance along the road of socialism can we realize the common ideal of mankind to live in an independent and peaceful world, free from domination and subjugation, aggression and war.

As shown by history, the anti-socialist moves of the international reactionaries have not started only recently and socialism has advanced and won victories through fierce struggles against the reactionaries.

There is no doubt that socialism will continuously advance and achieve a complete victory, overcoming all sorts of trials and difficulties on the road of its advance.

Victory and glory are in store for the people who are struggling with faith in the cause of justice and confidence in the future, full of revolutionary optimism, overcoming trials.

The banner of Lenin, the banner of October will shine forever in the hearts of the working class and other popular masses who oppose exploitation and oppression and aspire after independence, freedom and progress.

MINJU CHOSON carries an editorial entitled "Banner of Socialism Will Be Everlasting."

Government Delegation Returns From Cuba

SK0711045790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 7 (KCNA)—The DPRK Government delegation led by Vice-Premier Kim Talhyon came back home Tuesday by air after visiting Cuba.

It stopped over in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union as the government trade delegation.

KCNA Reviews 7 November Pyongyang Press

SK0711051790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 7 (KCNA)—Pyongyang-based newspapers today print a message of greetings Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent to Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Papers report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received letters from participants of functions such as seminar, solidarity meeting and lecture meeting held in different countries in connection with the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo.

NODONG SINMUN reports that President Kim Il-song's speech at the banquet marking the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Workers' Party of Korea was reported by foreign mass media.

The paper conveys voices of South Korean people warmly revering the great leader President Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il who have established an excellent socialist system in the Northern half of the country.

Papers give an account of a meeting held to convey a message of thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the scientists and workers of the Institute of National Classics of the Academy of Social Science for their great success in the translation, explanation and publication of the "Records of the Yi Dynasty" and the "Eighty Thousand Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures".

A film show and a party were arranged at the Korean Embassy in Beijing to mark the first anniversary of the unofficial visit of President Kim Il-song to China, according to papers.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article which says that Comrade Kim Il-song educated the anti-Japanese guerrillas to think boldly and work in a big way and led them by his practical examples.

NODONG SINMUN writes about the energetic guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il to convert Mundok County, South Pyongan Province, a major granary of Korea, into a land of bumper crops.

An article of the paper says that the immortal classic masterpiece "The Flower Girl" created and performed in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was flawlessly adapted to a revolutionary opera to be a classic model indicating the way of socialist literature and art under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Papers dedicate editorials to the 73rd anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

Papers introduce innovative successes made in light industry and other sectors of the national economy.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article entitled "Important Demand of Revolution in Light Industry Is To Give Full Play to Revolutionary Spirit, Party Spirit, Working-Class Spirit and Popular Spirit."

It is reported in papers that the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front issued a statement denouncing the No Tae-u military fascist clique for faking up the fictitious "Sanomaeng [South Korean Socialist Workers' Alliance] case" and launching a new reactionary offensive against the democratic forces, new student organizations called "Student Committee for the Promotion of Denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, Abrogation of the 'National Security Law' and Release of Those Who Visited the North for Reunification" and "special committee for smashing the scheme to stabilise the fascist ruling system and winning people's rallies" were inaugurated in Seoul and the president of the South Korean Party for Peace and Democracy urged the cancellation of the plan of "constitutional revision for parliamentary cabinet system" and disbandment of the "Democratic Liberal Party."

Under the headline "'The Flower of Reunification' Remaining Fragrant in the Minds of Fellow Countrymen" NODONG SINMUN carries articles by South Korean professors, priest, and students, who were moved by pure patriotic devotion of Yim Su-kyong.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article entitled "Grand March of Nation Towards Reunification Cannot Be Blocked" and MINJU CHOSON an article entitled "The North and the South Must Enter the U.N. Jointly With a Single Seat".

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets started "Eagle 90" joint military exercises, according to the press.

Members of the Mozambican party officials' delegation who had visited Korea stressed that "Korea is the country where the leader, the party and the masses form a harmonious whole" and a Peru-Korea cultural week was opened, says NODONG SINMUN.

Foreign news columns of the daily include reports that the CHINESE PEOPLE'S DAILY carried an article calling for steadfastly struggling against bourgeois liberalization, a protocol on foreign trade between Cuba and Uganda was signed, a preparatory meeting for Paris international conference on Kampuchea will be held in Jakarta and a new cement production facility was built in Vietnam.

A NODONG SINMUN article exposes that the U.S. imperialists are the biggest producers and suppliers of lethal weapons.

Chemical Fibre Output Increases by 20 Percent

SK0611152090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—Chemical fibre output is on the increase in Korea.

According to Han Song-chun, director of the Planning Department of the Ministry of Chemical Industry, it jumped 20 percent above the same period last year in the first ten months this year.

In this period the output of vinalon shot up 33.6 percent, staple fibre 22 percent and rayon 26 percent.

Great efforts are directed to the chemical fibre industry in Korea with the arable land limited.

The founding of our own unique vinalon industry with limestone and anthracite as the main raw materials in 1960s opened a new horizon in the synthetic fibre industry.

Vinalon production capacity jumped to 50,000 tons and factories of rayon and staple fibre were reconstructed on an expansion basis in the 1970s to sharply boost their production capacity.

New fields of chemical fibre industry including acrylic and movilon have been founded to further complete their departmental structures.

The construction of the Sunchon vinalon complex with 100,000-ton capacity has been dynamically stepped up in the 1980s and the first-stage commissioning has already been carried out.

The state aims at producing 225,000 tons of chemical fibre in 1993, the last year of the present seven-year plan. To this end the second-stage project of the Sunchon vinalon complex is going on in full-scale and the capacity expansion projects of the existing chemical fibre mills are progressing briskly.

In recent years the Sinuiju chemical fibre complex doubled its staple fibre production capacity and the capacity of the Chongjin chemical fibre complex has augmented 70 percent.

A work is on at the February 8 vinalon complex to reinforce and modernize the technical processes of production.

South Korea

Editorial Examines Pyongyang-Tokyo Talks

SK0711034690 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 6 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "North Korea-Japan Preliminary Talks in Beijing—We Hope the Talks Will Be Rational Negotiations Toward Openness and Self-Reflection"]

[Text] As we watched the North Korean-Japanese preliminary talks on normalizing diplomatic relations held in Beijing on 3 and 4 November, we saw once more that any talks are likely to be difficult when the other party shows signs of making unreasonable demands. We hope North Korea will make reasonable demands—taking into consideration Japan's relations with the ROK and the United States, North Korea's development of its relations with the United States from here on, and North-South Korean relations—in negotiations with Japan so the North Korean-Japanese talks will proceed smoothly.

The first round of North Korean-Japanese talks between government authorities on normalizing diplomatic relations was held in Beijing. They discussed the time, place, and agenda for the full-dress talks, but failed to reach an agreement and decided to hold another round of preliminary talks this month in Beijing.

This means that holding the full-dress talks this month, as stated in the September joint declaration by the three parties—North Korea's Workers Party of Korea, Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, and the Japan Socialist Party—will be virtually impossible. In view of the experience up to now and the international situation, we can anticipate a lengthy negotiation process.

In the first round of preliminary talks held in Beijing, the North Korean side is reported to have claimed that the agenda should include "indemnity for the 45 post-war years," as stated in the three-party joint declaration, and that the sites of the full-dress talks should be Pyongyang and Tokyo.

To this the Japanese side counterproposed that the indemnity be for the 36 years of Japanese colonial rule, that the site of the talks be a third country, such as China, in which the embassies of the two countries are located, and that the full-dress talks begin toward the end of this January in consideration of Japan's upcoming domestic events.

The Japanese side is reported to have objected to the North Korean proposal on the time, place, and agenda on the grounds that "the three-party joint declaration does not bind the inter-governmental negotiations." But a joint declaration with the ruling party's participation may or may not bind inter-governmental negotiations, and therefore, it remains to be seen how this Japanese position will materialize.

This Japanese objection fully reveals the Japanese Government's intention not to follow every demand made by North Korea in the coming negotiations. We think that among the differing views held by North Korea and Japan, the time and place of the full-dress talks will not be a serious problem. The part of the agenda to which the Japanese Government will object the most is indemnity. Japan is opposed to indemnity for the post-war 45 years in addition to the 36 years of colonial domination.

The three-party joint declaration includes indemnity for the post-war 45 years, and a promise should be kept. But we think it absurd that North Korea insists on indemnity for the post-war 45 years. The hostile or unfriendly relations between Japan and North Korea because of the post-war 45 years can be attributed not to Japan, but to the cold war and the North Korean authorities' closed policy. Japan has no obligation to make compensation for this.

The indemnity for the post-war 45 years will be ill-balanced with Japan's compensation for the 36-year colonial rule. The North Korean authorities should not make unreasonable demands on the promise in the joint declaration, but make reasonable demands for the 36-year indemnity and continue negotiations with reason.

We urge the North Korean authorities to accept the joint demand by the ROK, United States, and Japan that it accede to inspection of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), so it may remove in advance an obstacle to not only the North Korean-Japanese talks, but also to its negotiations with the United States on normalizing diplomatic relations, which will come in the future.

North Korea should change its attitude to gain practical benefits from the world trend of openness, and Japan should show sincere "self-reflection" on liquidating the imperialist wrongs it committed up until the end of the war and on peace in the Far East from now on. The ROK hopes North Korea and Japan will negotiate rationally and not obstruct Korean reunification and Far East security.

In closely watching the negotiations between North Korea and Japan, we may as well prepare, if necessary, for a revision of the ROK-Japan Treaty for the Normalization of Diplomatic Relations signed in 1965 or for a new ROK-Japanese treaty.

Improved Pyongyang-Canberra Ties Acceptable

SK0711062190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0611 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea has told Australia that it will not oppose rapprochement between North Korea and Australia. "The government basically does not oppose improvement of relations between Canberra and Pyongyang in accordance with the spirit of President No Tae-u's July 7 declaration in 1988, which encouraged North Korea to come out into the world community," a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

"However, it still holds good that our government is of a view that, as preconditions for such efforts, inter-Korean dialogue should make an actual progress: North Korea should sign a nuclear safeguards pact of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): North Korea should give up communizing South Korea and declare suspension of terrorist acts."

He was commenting on reports that Australia has made secret contact with North Korea to resume diplomatic ties, severed in 1975. He said Seoul had relayed its position to Canberra and Canberra shared Seoul's view and promised close consultation with Seoul before and after negotiations with North Korea.

Australia informed Seoul in October that Assistant Foreign Minister Micheal Costello [title as received] would visit Pyongyang on Oct. 31-Nov. 1 to discuss the Cambodian situation with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who lives in North Korea, he said.

"The Australian diplomat, if possible, would seek to meet with North Korean officials in his visit," the official said. But the Australian Government has not yet given any information on the result of the contact.

High Australian Official Reportedly in North

SK0611010690 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] (REUTER/YONHAP—Beijing) On 2 November, an Australian Embassy official in Beijing disclosed that Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Michael Costello, is now visiting North Korea.

This official noted there is a possibility Vice Minister Costello will meet with North Korean Government officials, and that such a meeting, if realized, would be the highest-level contact between the Australian Government and North Korea in 18 years.

The Australian Embassy revealed that Costello's visit to North Korea is geared toward talks with Norodom Sihanouk, who is in Pyongyang for the resolution of the Cambodian situation. Diplomatic sources, however, disclosed that North Korea is attempting to use Costello's visit as an opportunity for improving its relations with Australia.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Criticized

SK0611005790 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Nov 90 p 8

[Editorial: "AmCham [American Chamber of Commerce] vs. Frugality Drives"]

[Text] In Korea, decency and frugality have long been regarded as a virtue in lifestyle. It may be attributed, in part, to the dearth of wealth, yet more predominantly it has been a rooted philosophical value inherent among Korean people. Certainly, Korea has made remarkable economic progress in the past couple of decades. And, therefore, we need not be continuously obsessed with comparisons of the past now that Korean can afford to lead a life that is quite better than the previous one.

Yet, it is a pity to see some people engage in indiscreet consumption for extravagance. It must be noted that Korea's per capita GNP is still in the neighborhood of $5,000. But some lifestyles resemble one that could be enjoyed by people whose country's per capita income is $20,000 or more.

Such being the stark reality, it is more than natural that our civic and social organizations have been energetically staging campaigns designed to battle widespread conspicuous consumption that is quickly eroding the very fibers of our moral life. The campaigners have been rightfully calling upon the citizenry to join forces to combat reckless commercialism.

Thus, we cannot help but doubt the propriety of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Korea for raising objection to such morally righteous campaigns which are solely meant to discourage the growing propensity among some people to spend lavishly. If our country is to be assured of continued economic viability, we must address ourselves to doing away with the prevalent conspicuous nonproductive luxury-type consumption. Although our national income has increased considerably, the nation should now concentrate on expanding and consolidating its still shaky industrial base so that it could continue to be a healthy trade partner with the nations of the world including the United States.

Vast changes in the political, economic and security conditions throughout the world as well as on and around the Korean peninsula necessitate corresponding readjustment and adaptation in Korea-U.S. relations without eroding the base of the longstanding friendship and cooperation between our two peoples. With good reasons, economic frictions, particularly in the field of trade, have increased, heightening pressure for free market access.

The causes and adverse effects of these growing frictions, however, ought to be removed by means of openmindedness and reciprocal concessions in a manner of respecting each other's situation and background. We should guard against trade tension being compounded by emotional, or insincere, misconceptioms. The AmCham of Korea should work together with the Korean business community to help straighten out creaky Seoul-Washington trade ties and develop a fresh understanding and productive partnership.

U.S. Trade Pressure, 'Interference' Assailed

SK0711053390 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 5 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Economization Movement Is a Moral Movement—The United States Has No Right To Meddle in It"]

[Text] The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea is reported to have officially urged the Korean Government to remove import restrictions on high-priced luxury consumer goods and halt the campaign against excessive consumerism. This makes us unhappy and sad because it seems to be an interference in our domestic affairs going beyond the scope of trade pressure.

Every ethnic group has its own unique spiritual norms. We try to remember poverty when we are well off and we try to cultivate the dignity of being moderate through thrift. This is the code of virtuous conduct traditionally preserved by our people and a spiritual value we want to hand down to generations to come. So, the economization movement is a moral campaign for us.

This campaign was launched with a view toward doing away with a tendency of injudiciously importing luxury foreign goods and of unabashedly consuming them. Also, it is purely a result of the consensus of the people who have been awakened to the fact that such rotten materialism corrupts society and, therefore, should be swept away to rebuild a sound society in its place. This being the case, it is unbecoming for the United States, our ally, to put pressure on us to halt such a campaign on the grounds that it may undermine its national interests worth a few dollars. It cannot but be a very disappointing act, blackening the image of a major power which to date has been regarded as a broadminded country.

Also, given its procedures alone, it is an inappropriate act. The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea is an organization of U.S. businessmen operating in Korea. The act by U.S. businessmen who have directly urged our government to heed their business-related complaints or personal interests cannot be construed other than dictatorial arrogance. Putting across their position to each other through diplomatic channels is the proper way of respecting the sovereignty of the other.

As far as this procedure is concerned, our government officials are also to blame. When the American Chamber of Commerce holds a get-together, the counterpart to this kind of meeting should be the Korean Chamber of Commerce, as a matter of course. However, the fact that a large number of high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce attended the meeting in excessive numbers is not appropriate. Moreover, by attending the meeting our government officials made themselves appear to be officially responsible for the unjust but trifling interference of the U.S. businessmen who took issue even with our society's sound campaign like twisting a child's arms. It was not a wise act at all. Instead of being concerned about the growing anti-U.S. sentiment and of only paying lip service to it, responsible officials of the two countries should act carefully, even in the smallest details.

What is more, the Uruguay Round negotiations are under way. That is to say, multilateral negotiations over market-openings are in progress. These negotiations will be over within a month at the latest. The proper order of business is for the two countries to wait for the end of the negotiations before starting bilateral talks. Nonetheless, the U.S. businessmen have not only sought to make their point midway through the Uruguay Round negotiations, but they have also ignored the proper procedures, making us doubt whether they are seeking something else or not.

The U.S. side has just launched its last offensive in the Uruguay Round negotiations as part of an effort to have its trading partners open up their agricultural markets. The United States is now in the process of finalizing a plan to increase its pressure on Korea in its bilateral trade issues if the Uruguay Round negotiations have failed to produce a solution. Members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce who demanded that the Korean Government halt the campaign against luxury consumer goods leaves a bitter taste in our mouth in that it seems to be an immediate translation of their trade pressure on Korea.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Korea has asked for more in addition to what has been cited. It has urged the Korean Government to stop interfering in the foreign exchange market and that the domestic distribution market, the retail section in particular, be opened up so that U.S. automakers and electronics manufacturers can open their self-run agencies in Korea. It went so far as to demand that the Korean Government allow foreign insurance industries full-scale access to domestic markets, license them to import crude oil and raw materials for export use on credit, and then raised objections to such things as a tax hike on wine coolers. The demands of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have ranged from big, important issues to trivial ones and some of them seem to be too trifling to be coming from such a big, rich country as the United States.

The demands raised by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have once again brought to light the urgent reality that a variety of beasts are growling right at our front doors. They also open our eyes to the fact that the trade storm for survival blowing through the international community is not only cold, but relentless.

The colder and the more relentless the storm is, the harder we have to try to remain alive, spiritually sound and physically healthy. The frugality movement, whose goal is to open the eyes of the people, is all the more necessary in order to hold in check the immoral merchants who import all kinds of luxury goods such as carpets, furs, video game devices, luxury passenger cars, and even furniture, not to mention the need to curb the tendency among consumers who prefer bigger electric home appliances.

Raging crimes, gambling by rich people at home and abroad, and drugs that seem to be penetrating indiscriminately into every sector of society mirror our dangerous social ills which are driving our society toward the edge of a precipice. Such social ills will make us appear as ripe, easy prey to the beasts now growling right outside our windows.

Once they realize that we are people who are impatient and immoral, as well as people who do not examine themselves, they would slight us even further and increase their demands on us. As a rule, people stand in awe of those who are self-reliant and act cautiously both in personal relations and international relations..

Campaigning against luxury consumerism and for economization is a campaign we are most familiar with and one that we can put into practice most effectively. This is the way our ancestors taught their children to be virtuous, while practicing it themselves. Industriousness and sincerity originates in this, too. This is a campaign that cannot be successful if it is launched and led by the government. This campaign, which is under way in our society, has been launched voluntarily by the people themselves. We have to make this campaign more active in order to root out corruption and build a sound society. Only when we have done this, will we become able and good partners to our neighbors. The United States had better help us if for no other reason than to keep good allies from transforming into hostile enemies.

Complete Korean Fighter Project Review Urged

SK0611042490 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 5 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Tactful Commercialism of Weapons Merchants"]

[Text] The Defense Ministry revealed its plan to comprehensively review the next generation of fighters (KFP) [Korean Fighter Project], prompted by the an excessive price increase. McDonnell Douglas (MD) Company, the very party concerned on the U.S. side, made a relaxed response, saying it will try to make a smooth contract after discussion with the ROK and U.S. Governments. The MD Company appears to think that the ROK Government now is unable to change the type of aircraft it purchases and the source for those purchases. We do not know the details, but we think this project, which requires an astronomical budget, should not be subject to the bargaining of international politics.

In competition for the order between the MD Company's FA-18 fighter and General Dynamics' (GD) F-16, our government chose the FA-18 because it believed it superior to the F-16 in three areas: capabilities; ultramodern technology transfer, including the development of a space aviation industry in our country; and a price that corresponds with its capabilities. But the fact that problems have arisen regarding the second and third reasons indicates there were stumbling blocks in the negotiations for the contract.

It was learned that when our government was selecting the type of aircraft to purchase, the MD Company clearly assured it would not increase its offered price when the contract and purchase were finalized. On the pretext of an additional attachment of ultramodern equipment and for the transfer of technology, however, the MD Company abruptly demanded a 47-percent price increase amounting to 1.6 trillion won. Our government thus fell into an "ambush." The MD Company is said to have claimed that U.S. inflation above what was anticipated and the additional expenses it will bear in transferring the high-level technology it obtained through constant technological development to meet the ROK's demand were reasons for the price increase. Flexibility may possibly be considered in accepting the inflation factor. As for the expenses for transferring technology, however, we think a clear line should have been drawn when selecting the type of aircraft.

It is a general practice that international arms merchants drastically increase the price of shells after selling gun barrels. Thus, they force the purchasers to suffer huge losses. We wonder if our government has worked out careful measures to properly deal with such practices. Furthermore, since the number of suppliers of highly-sophisticated ultramodern weapons is extremely limited, the ruler-ruled relationship naturally will be formed when the door is opened for a certain company. Thus, the conditions of a contract should be firmly and clearly established so there will be no loss when one has "put one's foot forward."

Can we not draw a lesson from the commotion Japan made when it claimed that the U.S.-Japan joint development plan for Japan's next generation support aircraft project (FSX) was unilaterally disadvantageous to Japan?

We should consider that the FA-18, which is known as a very modern airplane, will be outdated as the main aircraft by the 2,000's, when our license production expires. We should boldly study the alternatives if we begin an overall review.

The government should even study the "cancellation plan" as the occasion demands, instead of adhering too closely to the security situation by stressing only the "inevitability" of the KFP project's implementation.

Soviet Counterpart Visits Assembly Speaker

SK0611090190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—Speaker Pak Chun-kyu was visited Monday by V. Lukin, chairman of the Russian parliament's committee for international affairs. Pak and Lukin discussed ways to enhance friendship and cooperation between the two states.

Soviets Visit To Discuss Electronic Exports

SK0611004990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Vladimir I. Shimko, a Soviet minister, arrived here Sunday, leading a five-member Soviet government delegation, at the invitation of Samsung Electronics.

Here until Nov. 11, the Soviet delegation will substantiate exports of electronics facilities and parts worth $258 million to the Soviet Union by Samsung.

Samsung and the Soviet Union signed a contract on exports of those facilities and parts in September.

Specifically, Samsung will export $48 million worth of color TV production facilities, $51 million worth of audio system manufacturing facilities and $105 million worth of personal computer production facilities.

In the meantime, Samsung will also negotiate with the Soviet delegation for exports of other electronics manufacturing facilities and the joint participation in various projects.

Seoul To Post 15 in Beijing Trade Office

SK0711014790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0140 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea will assign 15 government officials to its Beijing trade office, which is expected to open this month, a government source said Wednesday. There will be 10 Foreign Ministry officials with diplomatic status and five other government officials in addition to five members of the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra), the source said.

Korea and China recently agreed to exchange trade offices with consular functions to promote bilateral economic cooperation and exchanges.

"Some of the personnel will leave for Beijing this month to prepare for opening the office. When the office will open has not been decided, but it will probably be late this month," a Kotra official said. The trade office, however, is not likely to go into full operation until early next year as installation of fixtures and purchase of housing has been held up by "local circumstances," he said.

Yugoslav President Views New Relationship

SK0611131290 Seoul Television Service in Korean 1200 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Remote interview with Yugoslav President Boris Jovic, at the Presidential Palace in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, by anchorman Pak Song-pom, at the KBS News Center in Seoul; on 5 November—recorded; Jovic remarks in Serbo-Croatian captioned in Korean]

[Text] [Pak] Thank you, Mr. President, first of all, for accepting our request for an interview. The Korean people and government are welcoming your visit to our country. Your visit will be the first time as the head of an East European socialist country. How do you evaluate the relations between the ROK and Yugoslavia since the two countries established diplomatic relations and how do you view the future prospect of these relations?

[Jovic] The status of exchanges for the last one year since the diplomatic relations were established gives us a bright and excellent prospect. In particular, the two countries of Yugoslavia and the ROK have had similar views and opinions toward various international affairs, and there were many good things in our relations.

We must have common consciousness that the effort to promote relations in various domains is beneficial to both sides.

[Pak] What are the fields for cooperation in which you would be particularly interested while visiting Korea?

[Jovic] What is important is, above all, to deepen mutual political relations. I believe that through my official visit to Korea, the official relations between the two countries will further develop and reach a satisfactory stage.

Since the political foundation was laid, Yugoslavia is particularly interested in promoting capital cooperation and in technological cooperation.

[Pak] Please tell us about your plans for specific fields for economic cooperation and for the form of cooperation, if you have any.

[Jovic] The economic interest is bilateral. Advance of the Korean businessmen to Yugoslavia is beneficial to both countries. The Yugoslav economy is in the process of opening up including inducing capital, joint ventures, and so forth. Therefore, Korea has a bright future for progress.

There are many fields for cooperation between the two countries. Mutual trade, capital investment, scientific and technological cooperation and joint advance of third countries are all fields of cooperation.

The Yugoslav people hope that Korea will cooperate in the fields which the Korean economy can contribute to.

[Pak] Mr. President. You emphasized mainly the issue of economic cooperation. Since we live in the era of diversity and multiformity, we expect more diversified cooperation. What is your view on this issue?

[Jovic] We should promote mutual trust not only in the issues of important international and bilateral relations but also in all domains including economic, cultural, scientific and technological.

A series of mutual agreements will be signed. We will discuss other agreements, too.

In conclusion, my upcoming visit to Korea is aimed at firmly consolidating the foundation for the development of relations between the two countries.

[Pak] Thank you, President Boris Jovic. I hope to be able to see you in Seoul.

Yugoslav Postal Official Meets Vice Minister

SK0611091190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0754 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—Sin Yun-sik, vice minister of communications, met with Fikrat Kasumagic [as received], president of the Yugoslavia Postal, Telegraph, Communication, Telephone Co., on Tuesday to discuss bilateral cooperation projects. The two exchanged views on possible joint ventures and technology tie-ups in telecommunications fields.

KTI Business in East Europe, USSR Expanding

SK0711090090 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 5 Nov 90 p 10

[Text] Korea Trading International, (KTI) a trading window exclusively for small firms, reportedly has been expanding trade with East-bloc countries, trading sources said.

KTI exported $83,000 worth of car batteries to Romania this year, and it also received an additional order from Romania for shipments by next February in five separate installments.

KTI has already finished price negotiations with Romanian importers over consumer items and personal computers, and has sent a sample personal computer to Romania.

The company exported $140,000 worth of lathes and milling machines to the Soviet Union in March, and it has been negotiating with Soviet traders over the export of consumer goods through a barter agreement for Soviet raw materials, the sources said.

KTI, which imported $3,000 worth of machine tools from Yugoslavia this year, plans to export $5,000 worth of tennis rackets and silk blouses to Yugoslavia in return.

The company also imported machinery items from Czechoslovakia and $180,000 worth of industrial lamps directly from Hungary this year, all for use by small enterprises, the sources said.

EC 'Antidumping Investigation' Reported

SK0711085090 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 5 Nov 90 p 11

[Text] The EC executive commission recently completed an antidumping investigation into Korean-made audio cassette tapes and is reportedly considering levying anti-dumping duties of up to 19.4 percent on the products.

Goldstar faces the highest 19.4-percent anti-dumping charge and Samsung Electronics is looking at 3.1 percent, but three other companies, including Saehan Media, apparently face no duties. The EC decision will be made public in the near future in Brussels.

Korea's exports of audio cassette tapes to the EC amounted to $43.899 million during the January-August period, up 34.4 percent from a year earlier.

Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference To Open

SK0411001590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Korea will formally propose an annual meeting of science ministers of the Pacific-rim countries to discuss expansion of cooperation in the fields of science and technology.

The proposal will be made by Science and Technology Minister Chong Kun-mo on behalf of his government tomorrow at the opening-day session of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference's science and technology seminar in Seoul.

About 140 science policy-makers, private scientists and top business executives from 18 Pacific-rim countries are scheduled to participate in the four-day meeting.

Proposing the annual meeting in his opening speech, Chong, will stress that such a meeting will facilitate transfer of technology and cooperation among the regional countries, according to excerpts of his speech, which was released to the press in advance yesterday.

Korea's top science policy-maker will also urge that the governments throughout the region should take the lead in opening a new era of cooperation among the Pacific-rim nations.

Chong, according to the excerpts, will also express the government's concerns at what he described as the fast-rising international protectionism in technology, particularly on the part of the advanced nations.

The 18 countries participating in the Seoul seminar include the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, Canada and Australia.

Among the prominent participants in the seminar are Zhu Lian, vice chairman of China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation; Mike Collins, deputy minister of New Zealand's Science and Technology Ministry; and Alan Bickell, deputy president of the United States' Hewlett-Packard Co.

Foreign Missions in Seoul Predicted To Increase

SK0711005790 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] The number of foreign diplomatic missions in Korea is expected to exceed 80 by the end of this year as many countries now want to open embassies in Seoul, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

He said Mongolia, Yemen and Sudan recently notified the government of their plans to open embassies in Seoul.

A high-ranking official of the Mongolian Foreign Ministry visited Seoul Oct. 31-Nov. 5 and consulted with

Seoul officials on opening a Mongolian Embassy. Mongolia opened diplomatic relations with Korea in March this year.

Several Yemenese officials also arrived in Seoul yesterday for similar purposes, the official said.

Some other countries, helped by the prevailing mood of reconciliation in the world and the increasing importance of Korea in the international community, have also informally conveyed to Seoul through diplomatic channels their intentions to have resident missions, he said.

The foreign diplomatic missions in Korea number 76 at present which include 72 embassies, a consular department, a consulate-general and two consulates.

The figure is 10 up from 66 at the end of 1989. The countries which opened embassies this year include four East European countries which set up diplomatic relations with Seoul this year—Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. The others are Sudan, Tunisia, Zaire, Swaziland, El Salvador and Honduras.

Korea maintains 141 diplomatic missions all over the world including 101 embassies, 36 general-consulates, and four representative offices.

Port To Be Developed for DPRK, Soviet Trade

SK0711091290 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 5 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] The government will develop Tonghae, a port in northeastern Kangwon Province, as a main trade gate with the Soviet Union and North Korea.

After purchasing necessary land next year, the government plans to start expanding the capacity of the port from 1992.

A total of 76 billion won will be used for construction of quays (1,515 meters), dredging (3.1 million cubic meters) and land purchases (441,000 square meters).

When the development project is completed in 2005, the total cargo handling capacity will increase from current 10,038,000 tons a year to 20,283,000 tons and its simultaneous berthing capacity will rise from 12 to 19 ships. Vessels of up to 50,000 tons will be able to berth at the port.

The aggregate cargo volume traded through Tonghae amounted to 3,130,000 tons during the first seven months, up 35.7 percent. In particular, imports accounted for 2,250,000 tons during the period due largely to increased introduction of cement, bituminous coal and other minerals from the two countries.

Foreign Stores Plan Entrance Into Market

SK0611060790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0547 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—A group of Japanese department stores are looking into the feasibility of setting up operations in South Korea next year, when the retail market will be opened on a selective basis.

Business sources say Seibu, Daimaru and Tokyu recently opened offices in Seoul to conduct feasibility surveys and a few general merchandise stores, including Seiyu and Heiwado, will open joint ventures with Korean distribution companies Hanyang and Haitai.

Seven U.S. convenience stores, including Circle K, Seven Eleven and Dairy Mart, have opened at strategic downtown locations and fast food firms such as Big Boy, McDonald's and Wendy's are waging a heated competition to sell franchises.

The sources say foreign distributors will arrive in greater numbers next year as the government eases restrictions on retailers and on the number of chain stores and their size.

The Korean distribution industry is well aware of the impact of foreign companies but has yet to work out countermeasures, the sources say.

Hyundai, Shinsegye and a few other big department stores are looking overseas for ways to enhance their competitiveness, but most small department stores and supermarkets are simply waiting for government help. The sources say small stores should work together to counter the new arrivals.

The sources predict Japanese stores will do more harm than U.S. and European stores as Korea and Japan have many things in common. Japanese distribution companies have already achieved great success in Southeast Asia, they say.

Korean distributors want the government to ease restrictions on bank loans, relax building codes for department stores and establish the legal basis for small stores to be turned into chain stores or consumer unions.

The government has been expediting foreign wholesalers' investment in the nation since last year and will open the retail market on a selective basis from next year. In 1993, distribution will be completely liberalized with all restrictions on foreign investment lifted.

Shipbuilding Industry Receives No New Orders

SK0611083990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0756 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean shipyards received no orders in October for the first time in two and half years but will still have a banner year because of orders already placed. The Korea Shipbuilders' Association (KSA) said on Tuesday that orders in January were for 530,000 gross tons of shipping [GTS], peaked at 1.44 million GTS in May, and sank to 6,000 GTS in September.

In January-October, Korean yards recieved orders for 70 ships of 4.616 million GTS, with orders in the first five months accounting for 88 percent, or 4.057 million GTS, KSA said.

Since March 1988, when the shipbuilding industry was suffering from rising production costs caused by hikes in material prices and the strength of the Korean currency, October was the first month without any orders, a KSA official said.

The doldrums have resulted from record high international ship prices since the beginning of the year in tandem with the wait-and-see attitude of potential customers following the invasion of Kuwait in August, the official said. Another reason for sluggish sales is that the shipbuilders themselves have become picky about whom they will take orders from as their production schedules are fully booked until the end of 1992, he said.

As if this were not enough, he said, signs of a recession in the shipping industry and falling freight rates have filled potential customers with dread. The maritime research index (MRI), an indicator of sea freight rates, was 250 on Oct. 31, off 14 percent from the end of 1989, because of the Persian Gulf crisis and the world scale (WS) fell to 54 from 78 during the same period on the basis of shipping 250,000 tons of crude oil from the Gulf to the Far East.

As long as the Gulf tension lasts, there will be no increase in shipbuilding orders, but if peace breaks out orders will skyrocket in the first half of next year as customers regain confidence, experts said.

As of the end of October, construction this year amounted to 78 ships of 2.687 million GTS, up 143.9 percent from a year earlier, and the backlog was up 140.8 percent at 173 ships of 7.82 million GTS.

Trade Fair Garners $488 Million in Orders

SK0611013590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0121 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—Sitra '90, an international trade fair in South Korea, ended Monday with 3,151 overseas buyers having signed tentative export contracts worth 488.1 million U.S. dollars. The number of foreigners topped the target of 3,000 and the contracts were worth 32 percent more than the target of 370 million dollars, fair organizers said Tuesday. Tentative import contracts worth 61 million dollars, more than double the expected 30 million dollars, were also signed.

The weeklong fair at the Korea Exhibition Center in Seoul drew 435 firms from 35 countries. Entrepreneurs from the Soviet Union, China and six other East-Bloc countries also participated in the event.

Machinery topped the export list at 140.5 million dollars, 29 percent of the total, followed by electric and electronic items at 137.6 million dollars (28.4 percent) and iron and non-ferrous metals at 45.4 million dollars (9.4 percent). Trailing were plastic and rubber at 27.1 million dollars (5.6 percent) and textiles at 23.2 million dollars (4.8 percent).

Asia and Oceania accounted for 41 percent of the export contracts with 198.6 million dollars, followed by North America with 131.4 million dollars (27 percent) and Europe with 78.5 million dollars (16 percent). The Middle East, Latin America and Africa together accounted for less than 10 percent.

Government Refuses To Liberalize Rice Imports

SK0411020490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] The government considers it impossible to completely liberalize imports of 15 agricultural items classified as those of nontrade concerns, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Cho Kyong-sik said yesterday.

Upon return from his trip to Washington and Geneva, Cho said the nation will have to sacrifice other sectors to protect the agricultural sectors.

The government, he said, will continue to allow beef, soybean and corn to be imported in quotas as they are now. But he said the government cannot allow rice to be imported.

Rice, beef, soybean, corn and 12 other items had been selected by the government as items that cannot be traded freely for reasons of food security, employment and balanced regional development.

The government has presented the list of items to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Cho said the GATT holds that there must not be exceptions for free trade, which nations importing agricultural items oppose.

Editorial Urges Selective Access to North Films

SK0611121890 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Commotions of North Korean Films on Campuses"]

[Text] Campuses have gone through a round of commotion due to the showing of North Korean films. The day before yesterday, 14 universities across the country, including five universities in Seoul, simultaneously showed North Korean films and the police checked this, thus causing campuses to be filled with the smell of tear gas once again. The showing of "A Sea of Blood," a North Korean revolutionary opera, on some campuses during their fall festivals last year brought about a clash with police. This shows the reality of campuses' taste for North Korean culture.

It is true that since a ban on the works of former South Korean writers and artists in the North was lifted in the spring of 1988, the preparedness of our society for accommodating North Korean culture has changed remarkably. No serious problems have been raised since a 40-year taboo put on the literary and musical works and paintings of those who defected or were abducted to the North was lifted. This indicates how much our society has matured. Particularly as a result of a recent tenor of detente between the North and the South, television and other mass media have carried North Korean films and other programs showing North Korean realities. This is interpreted as proving that our society has, to some degree, prepared itself to accommodate North Korea as part of the national community.

We are of an opinion that in this context, it is not necessary to blindly deter university students from being curious in North Korean films. Some university students have taken interest in the system, ideology, and culture of North Korea as well as its films. In some cases, they have partially sympathized with them, thus causing a friction with government authorities. It is reasonable that to meet this mass demand for North Korean culture, the government, though limitedly, has opened North Korean publications and films to the public.

We do not believe that the recent row of North Korean films on campuses proceeded from any strong motivation for seeing North Korean films. It may be that with an election season coming up, general students councils used North Korean films in efforts to recruit their support. Furthermore, films can be employed as a proper means to assemble students, because they are popular among young men. In view of the fact that "Salt," "Tales of Escape," and "Story of Chunhyang," which are less politically oriented among the North Korean films, were selected, we can roughly grasp the intention of the host sides.

However, it should be borne in mind that the present stage of North-South relations and the incumbent law do not permit the limitless introduction of North Korean culture or films. Foreign movies, regardless of where they were produced, are allowed to be performed only after the government has approved their import and the ethics committee has screened them. It should be pointed out that the North Korean films shown on campuses this time were smuggled into the country through Japan and other third countries, illegally reprinted, and failed to go through prior screening in violation of the pertinent law. Also, this contravenes social practice.

We propose that to counter the blind curiosity of university students in North Korean films, the government and university authorities take the initiative in opening North Korean films to the public in a selective and step-by-step manner. If specialized professors select works and add their views, interpretations, and critiques to them before students see them, this will help students understand North Korea better. A blind restriction and taboo only increase curiosity.

In view of the fact that North Korean culture, including films, are nothing but political means to justify Kim Il-song's one-party dictatorship and idolize him, we believe that our university students are able to see North Korean culture in a selective and objective manner. As for culture, ours far excels the North's uniformed propaganda and agitation-oriented culture.

We urge professors concerned to voluntarily, actively, and affectionately lead and counsel students. We hope that they will no longer remain bystanders.

Chondaehyop Spokesman, Others Under NSP Probe

SK0611005990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] The spokesman for Chondaehyop, the nation's largest student group, and four other senior members of the group were taken away by the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) over the weekend for unknown reasons.

Three of them were released late Sunday night, however Kim Che-ung, 24, the Chondaehyop spokesman and also president of the student council of Hanyang University, and Pak Chae-pom, 25, head of the council's social problems department, were still under NSP's custody yesterday.

Kim and four others were snatched by more than 20 NSP agents from the Yoksam-tong house of Yi Won-pil, 24, head of the council's athletics department, who was also briefly taken around 10 a.m.

They were hauled away when the came out of the house to depart for Taehangno in Tongsung-tong, central Seoul, to take part in the proposed rally to mark the 61st anniversary of Student Day.

No, Kim Agree on Solving Factional Rift

SK0611141090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1400 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u and Chairman Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) agreed Tuesday on the need to put an early end to the on-going factional rift which has already plagued the ruling party over a week. Kim, who boycotted party duties over the past week, will return to his office Wednesday and make effort to normalize the operation of the National Assembly with a view to handling pending issues such as the new year budget bill, an official announcement said.

The two top DLP leaders agreed not to push for a shift of the government form from the present presidential to parliamentary cabinet system, thereby brushing aside a primary source of factional contention. Senior Presidential Secretary Choe Chang-yun for political affairs said in a statement, "the two leaders shared the view that the parliamentary cabinet system carries a lot of merits conducive to political development. But they agreed not to pursue a constitutional change which is opposed by the people."

The two leaders expressed their regrets that the intraparty feud of their party had caused anxiety to the people, Choe said. The latest factional rift erupted last Saturday when a newspaper published a secret memorandum signed by No, Kim and another party co-leader Kim Chong-pil in May, in which the trio laid out plans to change the government system. Disclosure of the secret deal was especially hurtful to Kim Yong-sam who had repeatedly denied the existence of the memorandum.

No reportedly pledged in the meeting to take stern punitive measures against any acts of disturbing the party discipline in an apparent response to Kim's complaint of an alleged plot by his rival factions to discredit him. The two leaders decided to push for an early realization of democratic reforms and revision of controversial laws.

Kim Yong-sam Asks President No for Concession

SK0411001490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Masan, Kyongsangnam-do—Kim Yong-sam indicated yesterday that he has asked President No Tae-u to purge "radical" anti-Kim figures to end the soaring factional feuding in the ruling party. "Nothing seems [more] important than securing party discipline," Kim, executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), told reporters. He said he made his position clear when he met party floor leader Kim Yun-hwan who came here as an envoy of No Friday night.

"My position will become clearly known in a day or two," Kim said, hinting he will make an announcement of his future political plan upon return to Seoul, possibly early this week. His key aides said Kim will make a "grave decision" unless his demand is met by the President. They said Kim appears to have sent an "ultimatum" to No.

Kim suggested that the question of the cabinet system is no longer a hot issue of contention between himself and his rival factions. "Controversy over the question of pushing for a cabinet system has been virtually settled," he told reporters while climbing a mountain in this industrial city. He was apparently referring to reports that his rival factions would accept his demand that the party stop seeking to introduce a cabinet system through a constitutional amendment.

Kim Yong-sam is here, boycotting party duties over the issue of the cabinet system.

Meanwhile, Kim's rival factions expressed suspicion about his motives in calling for party discipline. Leading members of the mainstream groups in the party characterized Km's demand as a ploy to gain firm control over the party, and said they cannot accept that demand. They, including Reps. Yi Han-tong and Yi Chun-ku, conveyed their position to President No yesterday.

Such differences between Kim and his rival factions have made it uncertain whether a Chongwadae meeting between No and Kim would be held early this week as reported initially. Upon returning to Seoul from Masan yesterday, floor leader Kim met party cochairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun, both leaders of the anti-Kim factions. They are said to have exchanged views over the executive chairman's demand related to party discipline and prospects for his meeting with the President.

"The executive chairman appeared to put emphasis on restoring confidence with the president in regard to the question of party discipline," the floor leader said in Seoul. He dismissed as groundless reports that the executive chairman has demanded party presidency.

Kim Yun-hwan also met with presidential secretaries during the night, party sources said.

But some other members of Kim's rival factions hinted at the possibility of part accepting his demand. They said the president, who concurrently heads the DLP, may promise to guarantee Kim his rights as the executive chairman as stipulated in the party platform. The president may then offer to rewrite the platform to strengthen the rights and status of the executive chairman, they added.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-sam was on bad terms with Rep. Pak Chol-on who was once thought to be close to President No. Pak harshly criticized Kim last April when he was first state minister for political affairs.

Pak threatened to shed the "secrets" which he alleged would deal a fatal blow to Kim's political career. Last month Rep. Kim Chung-wi attacked Kim Yong-sam for "kneeling down" before opposition leader Kim Taechung.

Both Pak Chol-on and Kim Chung-wi belong to the so-called "TK" faction in the ruling party which groups natives of Taegu who graduated from Kyongpuk High School.

Kim Yong-sam controls more than 50 lawmakers at the ruling party with 218 parliamentary seats. The party was set up early this year in a three-party merger.

Ruling Party Names New Secretary General

SK0711032390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 7 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u replaced the secretary general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Wednesday with Rep. Chong Suntok, accepting Pak Chun-pyong's offer to resign over the leak of a secret memorandum.

Chong, 55, a third-term lawmaker, member of No's faction in the DLP, and a retired army brigadier general, was senior presidential secretary for political affairs and party secretary general under president Chon Tu-hwan. He is chairman of the National Assembly Finance Committee. Chong was reportedly chosen through consultations between No and DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam Tuesday night and Kim made the announcement after consulting with DLP Co-Chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun.

In their meeting, No and Kim Yong-sam hit compromise to put an end to a recent intra-party feud in which Kim demanded that No and Kim Chong-pil stop trying to introduce a cabinet government system and give him substantial control over the party.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said, "The party will take the nomination of the new secretary general as a chance to put all it has into turning over a new leaf in order to develop politics."

The outgoing secretary general offered to resign on Oct. 25 as the feuding in connection with the disclosure of the secret pact snowballed into a political crisis that threatened to split the DLP, formed in February through a merger.

Assistant Construction Minister Fired for Bribery

SK0611010590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0032 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—The First Assistant Construction Minister Kim Po-kun has been fired on charges of taking bribes from construction companies. His dismissal came after the presidential task force to clean up officialdom told the construction ministry of its findings involving Kim.

Study Urges More Investment in Electronics Field

SK0511032390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's electronic industry will need 1.3 trillion won (1.82 billion U.S. dollars) over the next four years to remain competitive, according to a recent study.

Citing the study, the Electronic Industries Association of Korea (EIAK) Monday recommended that electronic firms develop 34 value-added products in the areas of software, industrial and home electronic equipment, semiconductors and electronic parts. It said laser printers, facsimiles, oscilloscopes, cam coders, sensors and microprocessors are among the high-tech items that will control the international electronic market in the 1990s, and Korea must keep up with inventions and quality.

Approximately 1.3 trillion won is needed through 1994 to develop the 34 core products, according to the study, compiled by more than 130 field experts and researchers, EIAK said.

The infusion of cash is needed to revive competitiveness, hurt by the strength of the won and rising labor costs, and the study urged independence for companies because of difficulties and high costs involved in transferring technology from abroad, EIAK said.

Manufacturers need to devise more effective production methods for color televisions and VCRS using automated facilities, which will cost about 137 billion won, it said.

Other suggestions included a four-fold increase in state support for electronic research and development projects and more cash for small- and medium-sized companies that lack the financial resources for independent research.

Government To Rewrite Atomic Power Law

SK0711091090 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 5 Nov 90 p 5

[Text] The government will split the existing Atomic Power Law into four different laws for more effective control of atomic power and increased atomic power safety, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The proposed four new laws are the Basic Atomic Power Law, the Reactor and Nuclear Materials Control Law, the Radiation Hazard Prevention Law and the Law on the Promotion of Development and Peaceful Applications of Atomic Power.

For increased atomic power safety, an Atomic Power Safety Commission will be organized separately from the existing Atomic Power Commission, ministry officials said. The new commission will supervise safety inspections of atomic power plants in the design stage, as well as of those in operation, among other things.

* Fifth Republic Politicians Comeback Discussed

* Resolve Hardening

902C0323A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 25 Aug 90 p 7

[Article by reporter Yu Chong-pil]

[Text] "Fifth Republic politicians"—those who shielded the top leadership and its circumference in the Fifth Republic led by Chon Tu-hwan and who were dumped in the Sixth Republic, the successor of the Fifth—have begun their wiggling moves to find a way to make a political comeback.

For the past 2-odd years, most of them have lived a quiet life nursing their resentment and sorrow at having been betrayed by the "lifetime comrades." Meanwhile, the three-party merger early this year brought about rapid changes in the political environments. In addition, the extraordinary National Assembly session in July dissolved the ad hoc committees on the Fifth Republic irregularities and the Kwangju incident respectively. These developments led them to form a convenient judgment on themselves that now that the Fifth Republic issues have been settled, they no longer have to cower and be humble.

Furthermore, as total chaos reigned in the political world recently amid the opposition members' resignation from Parliament, the uncertain prospects of the ruling camp's constitutional amendment plan for the cabinet system, and the factional strife within the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party], they began moving—although at a warming-up pace at the moment—toward their participation in another realignment of forces and in political events which may come at any time.

Fifth Republic politicians—who harbor grievances against President No Tae-u's Sixth Republic for having sold them out one-sidedly for the sake of its own survival and subjecting them to public opinion ordeals—are hardening their resolve to wreak their resentment in the next general election by turning it into a referendum on them.

However, not all of them are the same. Their individual situations vary a thousand different ways, depending on their environment, ability and relationship with the present regime and this makes it virtually impossible for them to be united into one under a "Fifth Republic banner."

While holding back their urge to find some clever way to achieve their political comeback, their first choice seems to be reunited with the present regime if at all possible. Accustomed to the life of the ruling camp, they adhere to the principle that "one lives by attaching oneself to where power lies."

Those who find it impossible to join hands with the present regime may choose to run as independents or seek to form a separate party. In the latter case, they are likely to take a position against the present regime, dwelling again on a long list of the Fifth Republic's old accomplishments such as price stability and the successful bid for the Seoul Olympic Games.

However, their forming a separate party is by no means an easy matter. In the first place, the present regime would not just sit back and do nothing about it. Also, there are so many hurdles for them to clear should they decide to form a party, including problems of funding and organizational resources and the close scrutiny by the public.

Chon Not Considering Return to Yonhuidong Home

It is in that context that the attitude of Chon Tu-hwan—the man who founded the Fifth Republic and who was the Fifth Republic itself both in name and reality—for the future and moves of people close to him is attracting widespread attention.

Chon, who will have spent two years in seclusion at the Paektamsa Buddhist temple as of this November, is currently pondering when to leave the temple and where to establish his residence, weighing merits and demerits. The perception of the Chon camp at Paektamsa is that the Sixth Republic's failure to bring about political, economic and social stability, in effect, eased up the anti-Chon public opinion relatively, that the time he spent in seclusion is enough for "atonement," and that therefore, Chon can leave the temple at any time. Chon is said not considering to return to his house in Yonhuidong, Seoul, however.

The reason is that a hasty return to the Yonhuidong house could expose Chon to the danger of being used again as a scapegoat by the No Tae-u regime, which is stricken with political uncertainty. The Paektamsa camp makes it a rule not to become a scapegoat for President No any more.

Their distrust and wariness of Chongwadae is so deep that they would look on Chongwadae with suspicion even over on-again, off-again media reports from unknown sources such as "Chon is said leaving the temple in July" or "Chon is said returning to normal life in September."

Also, with regard to rumors about Chon's attempt at a political comeback and an alleged plan of his son, Chon Chae-kuk, to run for a National Assembly seat from Hapchon, the Paektamsa camp takes them in the same context. Rumors about his political comeback attempt have it that Chon Tu-hwan would wait until the relationship between him and the present regime reaches the worst point, then return to Yonhuidong to signal the start of his role as a rallying point for Fifth Republic forces. The rumor about his son is that Chon Chae-kuk, who has resided in Yonhuidong since his return home in March from the United States after finishing the doctor's course in international politics at the University of Pennsylvania, is preparing to run for a National Assembly seat from Hapchon, Chon's hometown, to clear the name of his father.

Brushing off the rumors, a close aide to Chon Tu-hwan said tersely, "It is unimaginable. All those rumors are 'fictions and of zero possibility.'" His point is that Chon Tu-hwan is not interested in secular affairs except his leaving Paektamsa.

Speaking of Chon Chae-kuk, he is not directly related to Hapchon; furthermore, the same aide explains, his father, Chon Tu-hwan, also left Hapchon in his early days and, while in Chongwadae, did almost nothing for Hapchon in terms of local community development or favor for Hapchon folk in official appointments. So, the explanation goes, even if Chon Chae-kuk wished to be a candidate from Hapchon, he simply could find no foothold there.

Some observers say, however, that the aide is only explaining "how things are at the moment." According to those observers, it is possible that Mr. Chon will attempt to rehabilitate himself by all means should the situation take a favorable turn for him in the future, if not now.

Always attracting public attention are the moves of those who, as Mr. Chon's faithful servants, frequently visit Paektamsa—namely, Chang Se-tong, former director of the Agency for National Security Planning; An Hyon-tae, former Secret Service director; Ho Mun-to, former minister of the National Unification Board; Yi Yang-u, former minister of the Government Legislative Administration Agency; and Min Chong-ki, secretary.

But even those people seem to be exercising utmost patience and prudence, refraining from openly making any political comments and trying not to stir public sentiments, in respect for Chon's "intention."

The only exception is Ho Mun-to, who is busy preparing to be a candidate in the next general election from a "personal motive." Ho, who has an office in Chamsil, Seoul, is currently solidifying his organization, with emphasis on youth, for it is anticipated that Kosong, his hometown, will be separated from Chungmu-Tongyong and become a new constituency. Everyone admits that Ho Mun-to's popularity is extremely high in Kosong.

Kwon Ik-hyon's Links With the Sixth Republic

Kwon Chong-tal, former DJP [Democratic Justice Party] secretary general, who was an influence, commonly acknowledged, on the Fifth Republic, is most active for turning Fifth Republic remnants into a political force.

Returning home on 14 August after a 2-year stay in the United States, he showed a very positive stand to that end by saying that "I would like to run in the next general election to seek a reappraisal of the Fifth Republic if the circumstances permit." Especially, commenting on rumored moves of Fifth Republic remnants to form a political party, he said that "If many of those who worked together in the Fifth Republic are elected, it will be possible to consider forming a negotiation body." Thus, he did not deny the possibility of Fifth Republic politicians forming a separate political party.

Presently, Kwon Chong-tal has his office in Apkujong-dong, maintaining constant contact with personalities from Andong. One of his close aides said that "Since Mr Kwon Chang-tal was once a national political leader, it is quite reasonable that he still has a lingering interest in politics." "It is a matter of time for him to announce his return to politics," he added. The fact that his constituency still appreciates big wheel politicians is among the major factors prodding him to run.

However, observers are skeptical about the possibility of Kwon Chong-tal becoming a rallying point for Fifth Republic politicians and forming a political party. According to them, he indeed was a principal leader in the forming of the DJP in the past but it was made possible by the assistance provided by the National Defense Emergency Committee that had been set up in the wake of the 18 May [1980] Kwangju incident. Also, Kwon Chong-tal himself reportedly is leaning toward a remarriage with the present regime as a means of his political comeback.

Another major variable in the Fifth Republic remnants' political comeback attempt is the moves of Kwon Ik-hyon, former DJP supreme committee member, who has been acting as godfather of Fifth Republic politicians since the DJP shunned him by refusing to endorse his candidacy in the 13th general election. However, he also acted as President No Tae-u's special emissary to persuade Chong Ho-yong to give up his candidacy at the time of the Taegu by-election. Again, in advance of President No's visit to Japan, he, capitalizing on his former chairmanship of the ROK-Japan Parliamentarians League, visited Japan to help the prior political consultations. He has thus improved his relationship with Chongwadae lately and, consequently, it is highly possible that he will be reunited with the present regime.

The Three Ho's Seem To Have No Horizontal Ties

Also seeking a political comeback in their own ways are Ho Sam-su, former special presidential assistant on audit and inspection, and Ho Hwa-pyong, former presidential secretary for political affairs. They and Ho Mun-to were once called the "three Ho's." Ho Sam-su and Ho Hwa-pyong—the two star players in the 12 December [1979] military coup that led to the start of the Fifth Republic—were pushed out of the power circles toward the end of 1982. They then left for the United States. But, immediately before the 1987 presidential election, they returned home almost simultaneously as if by prior consent and cooperated in the founding of the Sixth Republic.

Ho Sam-su ran for a seat in the 13th National Assembly from Pusan's East constituency but was defeated by the RDP's [Reunification Democratic Party] No Mu-hyon. With an office in Youido, Seoul, Ho Sam-su still maintains his organization in the same constituency; within the DLP, however, he has to compete with an RDP faction rival for party endorsement.

Ho Hwa-pyong became director of the Contemporary Social Affairs Institute in April 1988 after failing to obtain party endorsement in the 13th general election. He successfully dealt with the opposition of the institute's labor union to his appointment and has since been consolidating his position on his own. He is reportedly interested in running from his home constituency of Pohang but the problem is that he and Yi Chin-u, the DLP incumbent, are alumni of Pohang High School and close friends.

A source knowledgeable about the three persons says that "Although they are often called the 'three Ho's,' there have never been any horizontal personal ties between them as rumored—neither in the past nor at present," adding that they are seeking a foothold just on an individual basis.

Minjong Tonguhoe's Comeback Attempt

Minuhoe [the Democratic Association] (chairman: former legislator Kim Suk-hyon)—a group of those who were DJP members of the 11th and 12th National Assembly and who failed to obtain party endorsement or to be elected in the general election for the 13th National Assembly—meets once a month or so in a seminar-style gathering while holding back an urge for a comeback. The group's vice chairmen are Wang Sang-un, former chairman of the DJP Central Committee, and Kim Chong-ye, Yi Hyo-ik, and Chong Hwi-tong. The group has 72 members including Kang Kyong-sik, Pae Song-tong, Pak Kwon-hum, Yi Tae-sun, U Pyong-kyu, Chon Pyong-u, Cho Ki-sang, Na Sok-ho, Yu Kyong-hyon, and Chong Chae-chol.

Minuhoe ostensibly professes to be a friendship society; in reality too, it is known to be unable to rise over that level. The reason it cannot be otherwise is that those who failed to obtain party endorsement in the 13th general election subsequently yielded their organizations completely to the new party structure on the start of the Sixth Republic and, as a result, they no longer have a power base in their constituency.

Minjong Tonguhoe [the Democratic Justice Association], a separate group from Minuhoe, is a gathering of those DJP district chapter chairmen who had no seats in the National Assembly when they obtained party endorsement for their candidacy in the 13th general election. They failed to be elected and had to yield their district chairmanship to RDP- or NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party]-faction legislators following the three-party merger. Chaired by Chang Song-man, former vice speaker of the National Assembly, it is a group wielding a significant amount of influence.

Therefore, Minjong Tonguhoe cannot be classified as a pure ex-Fifth Republic force but more correctly as a "new estranged group." It was founded at a general meeting in Hotel Shilla in April.

It has seven vice chairmen including Han Kap-su, Pae Myong-kuk and Chon Pyong-u, and an eight-member working committee including Yu Hung-su, Pak Chu-chon, Kang Kyong-sik and Chong Sang-chon. Chong Chae-chol serves as secretary. The group has 78 members.

This group is led by people who, like Han Kap-su, were chairmen of DJP district chapters in the Seoul area in the past but had no seats in the National Assembly. It plans to set up branch offices in provinces, too.

Like Minuhoe, Minjong Tonguhoe says its goal is to promote friendship. However, while Minuhoe remains as a pure friendship society, Minjong Tonguhoe is a political group actually setting its sights on the next general election.

Minjong Tonguhoe has become a major threat to the RDP and NDRP factions and, in that sense, a subject of controversy within the DLP. Most of its members still retain their organizations without yielding them to the RDP and NDRP factions, and remain in competition with them.

Minjong Tonguhoe members continue to call themselves "district chapter chairman." They assert that "Although we yielded our chairmanship of the district party chapter in compliance with the basic accord at the time of the three-party merger requiring DLP district chapters to be chaired by National Assembly members, party endorsement of parliamentary candidates is a different matter."

Their point is that in the ruling party, the rate of incumbents failing to obtain party endorsement for their candidacy in a general election in the past was 25 to 45 percent, and that a similar rate will also definitely apply to the next general election. They would say confidently that in case they again fail to have their candidacy endorsed by the DLP in the next election, they will run as independents, and that in that case, for their organizational power, qualifications and financial resources, they can defeat candidates of the RDP and NDRP factions. Many political observers maintain that those people can be united with Fifth Republic remnants at any time, depending on developments in the political situation.

Minjong Tongjihoe [the Democratic Justice Fellowship Association] chaired by Yi Sang-chae, former DJP deputy secretary general, is another friendship society of people who formerly worked in the DJP's administrative offices. The combined membership of its central and local chapters is more than 1,000 but the group is not known for any specific activity. Its chairman, Yi Sang-chae, walked over former DJP Secretary General Chong Sok-mo and obtained party endorsement at the time of the 13th general election. But he failed to be elected. Yi Sang-chae tried to use the group as a springboard for a comeback; however, he is currently under indictment and, in addition, it is a common assessment that he is politically less capable than legislator Yun Chae-ki of the NDRP faction, his rival.

Possibility of Minkaehyop Turning Into a Party

Meanwhile, Minkaehyop [the Democratic Reform Pan-National Movement Council] (chairman: Kim Yong-kap, former minister of government administration) operates at a different level from other ex-Fifth Republic forces in general. Dedicated to a conservative, right-wing cause, Minkaehyop fully embraces Fifth Republic remnants in all walks of life. Kim Yong-kap, its leader, quit his cabinet post during the controversy over the issue of a mid-term appraisal of President No's performance in the spring of last year, after insisting, against the administration's line, on settling the political situation in a straightforward manner by carrying out the mid-term evaluation as pledged and on taking tough measures against "leftist forces." Minkaehyop was to formally announce its founding at a general meeting in February.

However, because of the unexpected three-party merger, the meeting had to be postponed and is yet to be held.

Kim Yong-kap himself characterizes Minkaehyop as "half political party and half social organization," raising the possibility, one may say, that it can turn into a "genuinely conservative" party whenever the opportunity arrives. Adding to that possibility, he recently said in an interview with Japan's KYODO Press Agency that "Currently, we do not have a conservative party in our country that we, conservative forces, think we should support." Criticizing the present regime, Kim Yong-kap also said that "The No Tae-u regime is pursuing an opportunist line in domestic and foreign policies as seen in its constitutional amendment plan for a cabinet system and reunification programs." He added that he will launch a movement to force the three Kim's into retirement.

Among the more than 2,200 Minkaehyop promoters are many prominent personalities, including 24 former legislators such as Yi Chae-hyong, Yi Man-sop, Pak Kwonhum, Yi Sang-ik and Kim Chong-ha; some 60 ex-bureaucrats such as Kwon I-hyok, Chong Han-mo, Yi Kwang-pyo, Kim Yong-sik, Yi pom-chun, Choe Myonghon and Cho Kyong-hui; cultural figures such as Kim Tong-ni, Chong Pi-sok and Han Mu-suk; lawyers such as Yi Chung-kon and Yi Pyong-nam; and some 700 business figures. Also included are active journalists and professors but their names have not yet been made public by the group.

However, the general observation is that although the possibility is always there, Minkaehyop will not find it easy to transform itself into a political party because the process requires as No. 1 priority an adjustment of opinions among members—and Minkaehyop members are so extremely diverse in their propensities.

* Friction Between Chon, No

902C0323B Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Aug 90 p 3

[Article by reporter Kim Min-pae]

[Text] Amid signs of ex-Fifth Republic politicians moving vigorously to resume their political activity, public attention is being focused on former President Chon Tu-hwan, who currently resides in Paektamsa. When his secluded life there will come to an end has become a matter of primary concern to the public.

Chon went into retirement in the Buddhist temple in November 1988, yielding himself to "retribution for deeds of the Fifth Republic." In three more months, he will have lived there two full years. Nevertheless, there are no signs at all of his leaving the temple for good. According to speculation in political quarters, the former president will spend another winter in Paektamsa.

Until last year, it had been reported now and then that Chon, while saying he had no interest in coming out of seclusion, made a "response implying his irritation" at the present political sphere. Even that sort of thing has ceased to be observed lately, according to informed sources.

It can be said that virtually all the visible factors confining Chon Tu- hwan and his wife to Paektamsa have now been resolved, especially since Chon's own testimony before the National Assembly late last year and the dissolution of the two ad hoc committees on Fifth Republic irregularities and the Kwangju incident respectively and the passage of the Kwangju incident compensation act at the last extraordinary National Assembly session.

In this connection, a Chongwadae source has shown a more or less flexible response by saying that "Regarding the question of former President Chon leaving Paektamsa, the only remaining thing is for Mr. Chon's side to make up its mind."

Both First Minister of State Kim Yun-hwan and DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] Secretary General Pak Chunpyong have said that Chon should leave the temple "before it gets to two full years," suggesting the "appropriateness" of his coming out of seclusion within a month or two.

On the other hand, Mr. Chon's side at Paektamsa seems to be taking it easy, saying "There is no particular need to hurry." Ostensibly, aides attribute the delay in the departure from Paektamsa to problems of residence and security that are yet to be resolved. A source on the Chon side said that "Unless everything has been settled within the next two months, we will have no alternative but to start making preparations for another winter here." "But the residence and other problems are not likely to be settled in this period," he added, suggesting the likelihood of a prolonged stay at Paektamsa.

However, the delay seems to be due to more careful analyses of the situation by Chon's aides.

Factor No. 1 being weighed by them is the internal situation of the political sphere, particularly the ruling camp.

They are paying attention to the fact that in addition to the pending issues of ending the hard-line confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties and achieving economic and social stability within the year, such key issues within the ruling camp as a constitutional amendment and strategy about a successor to the No Tae-u administration still remain undecided.

In other words, they fear that should Chon make a hasty decision to leave Paektamsa at a time such important political tasks of the Sixth Republic are still left in an uncertain status, there is the possibility of him being engulfed in an unexpected storm.

While living in the temple for nearly two years, Chon overcame most of the psychological and environmental difficulties he had when he first went there. That is why he seems to be feeling that he should wait longer so that he can leave the temple in a more natural way without causing much "commotion."

Especially, the Chon side also appears to recognize the possibility that if he should be thronged, regardless of his wish, by ex-Fifth Republic politicians and groups estranged from the present regime following his return from Paektamsa, it could spell trouble for the current political sphere.

Nevertheless, rumors circulating in political quarters one after another lately—and attracting the attention of many people—have it that those who were key leaders of the Fifth Republic are moving to run in the next general election, or even that Chon's eldest son, Chon Chae-kuk, plans to run from Hapchon, and that the founding of a "Fifth Republic party" is possible.

Under these circumstances, the Sixth Republic government keeps a close watch on the moves of ex-Fifth Republic politicians although the Chon side at Paektamsa maintains that it has "no interest in the current politics"; on the other hand, the Chon side has reportedly expressed profound displeasure at the fact that Yi Chang-sok, Chon's brother-in-law, was taken into custody at the second trial after having been granted suspension of his indictment in the first trial.

It can be said that friction has returned to the relationship between the present regime and the Chon Tu-hwan side at Paektamsa.

In short, according to observers, a combined study of factors involved—such as Chon's perception of the situation, the degree of stability within the ruling camp, as well as whether or not the public is ready to accept his "return to secular life"—indicates that Chon's departure from Paektamsa could be delayed more or less than anticipated.

Burma

UN Human Rights Investigator Continues Visit

Meets With Officials

BK0611155390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Professor Sadako Ogata, an independent expert on human rights from the United Nations Human Rights Commission, in the company of Mr. (Yacob Muller), a senior official from the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, visited the Ministry of Labor at the Ministerial Offices at 1100 today and had talks with Lieutenant General Tin Tun, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and minister of transport and communications and labor and social welfare.

Rights of workers, assistance programs, health and social security of workers, social welfare matters, and relief and resettlement measures were discussed at large in a frank and cordial manner.

Also present at the talks were U Tun Shwe, director general of the Directorate of Labor; U Min Aung, director general of the Factory Inspection and Labor Law Department; U Tun U, director general of the Social Welfare Department; and U Saw Thein, director general of the Relief and Resettlement Department.

At 1400, Professor Sadako Ogata visited the Ministry of Education at the Ministerial Offices and called on Colonel Pe Thein, minister of health and education and commander in chief of the University Training Corps.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. U Aung Tun Tin, director general of the Health Ministry's Planning and Statistics Department; U Saw Tun, director for overseas studies of the Higher Education Department; and Dr. Kan Tun, deputy director of the Health Ministry's Foreign Relations Department.

Meets Attorney General

BK0611161090 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Professor Sadako Ogata, an independent expert on human rights from the United Nations Human Rights Commission, in the company of Mr. (Jacob Muller), a senior official from the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, called on U Tha Tun, attorney general of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], at the Office of the Attorney General at 1500 today. Also present at the talks was U Thaung Nyunt, director general of the Office of the Attorney General.

Obstruction of Inquiry Noted

BK0711105090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 7 (AFP)—The United Nations Human Rights Commission special envoy to Burma has accused the military junta of deliberately obstructing her inquiry, informed sources here said Wednesday. Professor Sadako Ogata, who arrived in Rangoon on Saturday for a week-long investigation into human rights abuses in Burma, has passed on her complaints to U.N. officials.

According to the sources familiar with Mrs. Ogata's mission, she was expecting a cool reception from the military authorities but she was taken aback by just how cool her welcome was. "The government attitude and treatment of Mrs. Ogata is a deliberate attempt to obstruct her inquiry," said one source.

One of her complaints is believed to be the government's refusal to let her see 45-year-old Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party that convincingly won the May elections. Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi has been held under house arrest since July 1989 and there have been no signs of the government releasing her.

Diplomats said they were not surprised at the military's determination not to cooperate with Mrs. Ogata. "The junta have made no secret of the fact that they are opposed on any inquiry into their human rights record," said one Rangoon-based diplomat reached by telephone.

A hint of what was in store came when Mrs. Ogata was originally booked to stay at the Inya Lake Hotel in the Burmese capital but was moved to a government guesthouse that was surrounded by heavily armed guards. Diplomats say the junta are determined to stop dissidents from getting near the U.N. envoy. "There are a lot of people who would like to see the professor and tell her what is going on, and equally the military do not want those people to get to her," said another diplomat.

Since the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) seized power in a bloody 1988 coup, there have [been] repeated reports of murder, torture and arrests by the military in a bid to crush all opposition.

Earlier this week Amnesty International described Burma as a country turned into a secret state of terror by the SLORC and called for what it described as the "veil of secrecy" to be lifted.

In February, the United Nations Human Rights Commission severly criticised the junta for its human rights record and Mrs. Ogata's visit is the result.

Lao Diplomat Meets With Narcotics Officials

BK0111095590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. (Amhun Sainasit), deputy head of the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Yangon [Rangoon], visited the Central Narcotic Drugs Control and Eradication Department at the People's Police Force Headquarters at 0900 on 31 October. He met with Police Director Ngwe Soe Tun, joint secretary of the Central Narcotic Drugs Control Board of Myanmar [Burma], and discussed bilateral cooperation in narcotic drugs prevention and control work.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Radio Criticizes EC Resolution on Hardwood

BK0611125490 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia and other developing countries in the region continue to be at the mercy of the bigger and more advanced countries, especially of the West. The developed and industrialized countries do not hesitate to use their economic clout to impose their will on the less developed ones.

Last month the European Parliament adopted a resolution to ban the import of tropical hardwood from Sarawak and east Malaysian states. The resolution came about as the result of a report by the International Tropical Timber Organization—ITTO—to the European Community, stating that logging activities in the states would lead to catastrophic deforestation.

This assumption is without any basis whatsoever. Malaysia has always adopted and continues to adopt well-defined and meaningful policies in terms of environmental protection. When compared to timber producers in other parts of the world, the damage caused to Malaysia's forests is minimal.

The EC's recent resolution can only be taken as creating another non-tariff barrier to other developing countries' exports. As Malaysia's Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said, developing countries are being made to shoulder the burden of halting the deterioration of the global environment when the developed ones are themselves guilty of having caused more than their share of the damage through pollution and other means.

It is distressing to note that the industrialized nations seem ready to resort to economic arm-twisting to force their will upon the developing ones. Malaysia is becoming accustomed to such tactics. The move by the U.S. Congress, for example, to remove the US$1.5-million military training grant to Malaysia on the alleged human rights violation against the Vietnamese boat people is a case in point.

As for the ban on tropical timber products from Sarawak, fortunately there are some within the EC who will continue to play a moderating role in the community to restrict economic protectionism and promote expanded trade. Denmark is one such country that has always been commited to the principles of the open trading system. The Danish Foreign Minister, Mr. Uffe Elemann-Jensen, who is currently here on a five-day visit with a six-member delegation, is to sign an investment guarantee agreement with Malaysia. Denmark has more investments in Malaysia than in any other ASEAN country, and there are good prospects for greater economic cooperation between the two countries.

Malaysia is now laying emphasis on the development of small- and medium-scale industries. These will benefit from the Danish investments and from that country's well-known technology and expertise in several fields.

The visiting Foreign Minister of Denmark has commented that Malaysia has been made a victim of the deforestation policies of other countries where more serious harm has been done to the environment. There must be others in the EC who share Mr. Elemann's views,and the 12-member community should think twice before taking action on the resolution.

ASEAN has warned that if the ban on the import of tropical hardwood from Sarawak is implemented, ASEAN will retaliate by boycotting EC products. ASEAN will be firm in safeguarding the legitimate interests of its member countries. Its solidarity in facing challenges posed is without question.

Deforestation Called Global Concern

BK0711105590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is indeed encouraging to note that at least one European country has come out in support of Malaysia's forest conservation policy. The Danish Government has acknowledged that Malaysia has been made a victim of other countries' indiscriminate logging activities.

The problem is environmental groups often group Malaysia with other tropical forest producers. This includes those countries from South America where the damage to forests had affected the global environment. As a result, despite the many protests by Malaysia, it is continuously being accused of wasteful logging. But what the so-called champions of the environment failed to recognize is that Malaysia has one of the best management and conservation policies. This has been admitted by many forestry experts.

The visiting Danish Foreign Minister has urged Malaysia to explain its policies and expose the real situation. This (?reveals) that environmentalists are expected to continue their pressure on tropical timber products. But the question is how much can Malaysia do if the environment groups are biased and do not listen to its explanations. Then it looks as if they are looking towards a confrontation.

Two weeks ago the European parliament passed a resolution to ban the import of tropical timber products from Sarawak. ASEAN, in retaliation, has warned the European Community it would boycott ASEAN goods if the ban was imposed. [sentence as received]

Malaysia, on its part, has over the last two years been trying hard to counter all these accusations by sending several missions to Europe. But all this has met without success. However, Malaysia is not going to give up that easily. Logging is an important means of income for the people. Being a developing country, it needs all the sources of revenue it can get. To this end, Malaysia will seek the assistance of Denmark in convincing other EC members of the measures it has taken.

It is worthy to know that it is implementing proper forestation and management policies. EC members should also realize that any ban on tropical product import would only create unemployment. This would further jeopardize the economies of timber producing countries such as Malaysia.

The road to defend itself would not be easy. This is in view that many of the environmental groups have vested interests. It is very likely that they are being fed incorrect information. In fact, Malaysia has opened all its doors and arranged for relevant groups to see for themselves what is happening in Sarawak. No stone has been left unturned so that whosoever is keen to obtain the facts will have access to all information.

Sometimes it is difficult to deny that these delegations were heard mainly to protect the interest of Western softwood producers. Most of the environment problems are caused by the industrialized Western countries. This is ignored by environmentalists who still point the accusing finger at Third World timber producers. It should be realized that deforestation is not the problem of producers alone. It is a universal matter.

Tropical forests are the world's heritage. In view of this, developed countries should work with and assist producers to preserve the forests.

Abu Hassan Talks With Danish Foreign Minister

BK0611100590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] A draft of the proposed investment guarantee agreement, IGA, between Malaysia and Denmark is being studied by the government. Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar says [words indistinct] the draft will be tabled before the cabinet for approval soon. He said this to reporters in Kuala Lumpur after receiving Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen at his office. He added that the Ministry of International Trade and Industry is discussing the proposed agreement with relevant agencies. The IGA is one way of improving the flow of investments from Denmark to Malaysia.

During their talks, Datuk Abu Hassan asked Denmark to help counter the antitropical wood campaign in Western Europe. The two foreign ministers also agreed that diplomatic efforts should be continued to resolve the Gulf crisis without the use of military force.

King Receives Envoys' Credentials 6 Nov

BK0611101090 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0624 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 6 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The yang di-pertuan agong (Malaysian king), Sultan Azlan Shah, on Tuesday received the credentials of three ambassadors and a high commissioner to Malaysia.

His majesty said when receiving the credentials of the new Japanese ambassador, Hiroshi Fukuda, that bilateral trade between Japan and Malaysia have almost doubled from M [Malaysian] $1.38 billion (U.S.$511 million) in 1986 to M$2.56 billion (U.S.$948 million) last year, making Japan Malaysia's biggest trading partner. He said at the end of 1989, Japanese equity in companies already in operation in Malaysia totalled M$1.2 billion (U.S.$444 million), making Japan the biggest foreign investor in the country.

His majesty also received the credentials of the Czech and Slovak (previously known as Czechoslovakia) ambassador, Dr. Izidor Pociatek, Cyprus High Commissioner Theophilos V. Theophilau, and Mali Ambassador Ahmad el Bekaye Sidi el Mochtar Kounta.

Cambodia

Chea Sim Closes National Assembly Session

BK0711084890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] On the afternoon of 6 November, the extraordinary session of the State of Cambodia's first National Assembly concluded its work with fine results. For one whole day, the session's participants listened to and discussed the report of the National Assembly's standing committee read by Comrade General Sin Song, vice chairman of the National Assembly's standing committee; the Council of State's report on canceling the treaty of friendship and cooperation and consular protocol between the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK] and the GDR read by Comrade Chan Ven, general secretary of the the Council of State; and the Council of Ministers' report on reshuffling and appointing cadres and report on the situation of the negotiations to search for a political solution to the

Cambodian problem, read by Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The meeting unanimously adopted the Council of State's proposal on canceling the treaty of friendship and cooperation and the consular protocol between the PRK and the GDR and adopted the Council of Ministers' proposal on reshuffling and appointing cadres to cabinet posts, which include the discharge of Comrade Hun Sen from the foreign minister's post; Comrade Say Chhum from the agriculture minister post; Comrade Tang Saroem from the trade minister post to go into retirement; and Comrade Hor Namhong from the post of assistant minister to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Our National Assembly also ratified the appointments of Comrade Hor Namhong as foreign minister; Comrade Nguon Nhel as agriculture minister; and Comrade Nhim Vanda as trade minister.

In his speech closing the session, Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly, clearly pointed out that:

[Begin Chea Sim recording] For a busy day and with a lofty sense of responsibility for our Cambodian motherland's destiny and future, our National Assembly members, who have met at this extraordinary session, have deployed active and energetic efforts worthy of being the people's representatives. This has enabled our National Assembly to clearly show its influence as the supreme representative body of the state authority and the high-ranking representative organization of our State of Cambodia's people.

The brilliant results of this extraordinary session are reflected through the major tasks which, on the one hand, are related to the sociopolitical life—which is undergoing a new change in accordance with the resolution of the party Central Committee's 11th plenum and the spirit of the National Assembly's 19th session. On the other hand, these tasks, which are enjoying good reviews despite some obstacles, are related to the process of finding a political solution to the Cambodian problem and ending the protracted conflict in our motherland.

In accordance with Article 48 of the Constitution and at the suggestion of the Council of Ministers to further increase work efficiency, our National Assembly has voted to appoint and move Comrade Hor Namhong to the post of foreign minister; Comrade Nguon Nhel to be agriculture minister; and Comrade Nhim Vanda to be trade minister. Through the results of these moves and appointments, our National Assembly hopes the Council of Ministers, as well as the major three ministries, will create a new fighting spirit to serve the interests of the people nationwide and also heighten the State of Cambodia's identity in the international arena.

Our Assembly also takes this opportunity to welcome the measures to fight and overcome corruption, measures against negative social phenomena, and disciplinary measures to increase the practice of thrift and restore social order. These measures have a positive influence on and benefit our entire society and nation. The National Assembly, like our entire people, is always very happy to note that, as an organization directly in charge of administering society and leading the national economic development, the Council of Ministers has become a model in concretely implementing the slogan, "Words and deeds go together." Our National Assembly has a sacred request for the Council of Ministers to strengthen stringent measures constantly and make longer steps to check activities and defend and expand social legitimacy.

Having realized and directly paid special attention to the process to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem, and in accordance with the sacred request of the people throughut the country—who have expressed through meetings everywhere and sent petitions to the National Assembly and the front's National Council—our assembly at this extaordinary session listened to a report read by Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to the meeting for examination, discussion, evaluation, and drawing conclusion. This is the duty to report in conformity with the right and power delegated by the National Assembly's 18th session to the Comrade Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Our assembly session unanimously highly appreciated the principled stand taken by the State of Cambodia's government at every negotiating forum and the rigorous and meticulous respect of the basic principles set by our National Assembly, particularly on preventing the return of the genocidal regime, respect of the State of Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, and respect of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

Our National Assembly welcomes the statement by the State of Cambodia's government accepting the framework document for a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem—a document worked out by permanent members of the Security Council and supported by the Security Council and the UN General Assembly's 45th session—as a basic document for negotiations within the framework of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the Paris International Conference.

Our National Assembly highly appreciated the constructive stance of the State of Cambodia's delegation for saving the Jakarta Informal Meeting from an impasse and moving toward the establishment of the SNC composed of 12 members, which is being recognized by the entire international community as the Cambodian people's representative in the United Nations and all international organizations.

In the National Assembly's view, the temporary suspension of the SNC's first session in Bangkok—due to the changes by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—was unreasonable and a move against peace. It is also a dangerous adventure that put the Cambodian people's interests below those of an incompetent individual who cannot even choose for himself. For this reason, the adherence to a firm stand by the State of Cambodia's representative was right and with the clearest basis. With genuine goodwill, the State of Cambodia is not afraid to make reasonable concessions. However, we have to categorically oppose excessive demands or the habit of constantly changing and not respecting the original spirit of the agreement. This is the mark of excessive greed with intransigent ambition and selfishness.

The State of Cambodia's National Assembly appeals to the other Cambodian side to restart the work of the SNC on the 12-membership basis, as set by the Jakarta Informal Meeting, to discuss the key issues, which are major ones for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. These are the voluntary cease-fire, the end of foreign military aid, the dispatch of an SNC delegation to the United Nations, the repatriation of refugees, and the organization of proper and just general elections in Cambodia. These are major issues vital to the Cambodian people and in the interest of peace. The SNC chairmanship is not the vital issue. The determining issue of the political solution is the organization of elections, in which the two sides compete democratically instead of with weapons. The State of Cambodia's National Assembly appeals to the entire international community and concerned countries to use their respective influence to end the stubborness and intransigence and maneuvers. These maneuvers, which hinder negotiations, are aimed at prolonging the war, which would favor the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

To this day, the State of Cambodia's National Assembly has noted that the threat of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return is still present. This is not an issue of the past but an urgent and immediate one to which the United Nations should contribute to solving and definitively ending so this does not recur in Cambodia and on this planet. The Cambodian people's voice throughout the country, expressed through meetings and petitions, has stressed the utmost importance of preventing the return of this regime. The search for peace for the Cambodian people through a political solution remains the most reasonable formula. Leaving the genocidal Pol Pot clique to have a military and political organization with armed forces, finance, and war materiel hidden for a protracted war following a political solution is however most dangerous; this would certainly be followed by a protracted and uncontrollable civil war.

Furthermore, safeguarding and defending the national independence and sovereignty is most precious. Article 1 of our State of Cambodia's Constitution clearly states that the State of Cambodia is an indivisible state; Article 2 says the Cambodian people are the masters of their own country's destiny. All power belongs to the people.

In connection with the above and as the high-ranking representative body of the State of Cambodia's people and the embodiment of the state power, and in accordance with the spirit of the 18th National Assembly's session, our National Assembly continues to voice its support for the Council of Ministers' proposal in the use of an appropriate UN role in a political solution to the Cambodian problem. This is to organize proper and just general elections in Cambodia, supervise the implementation of the agreement by all parties, and provide international guarantee to this agreement. The State of Cambodia will gladly abide by the principle of the UN Charter. Therefore, the use of this role should not intefere in affairs that are the national competence of the State of Cambodia; encroach upon sovereignty and national identity of the state and the political, economic, and social structures; and violate the State of Cambodia's territorial integrity and political freedom.

In particular, the Cambodian people hold that in accordance with the principle of the UN Charter, they have the same right as other people in the world and also the sacred right to self-determination to determine their political constitution with full freedom and without outside interference. The complete separation of national unity and the State of Cambodia's territorial integrity is unacceptable, because this act goes against international law. Included in this act are pressure, intimidation, or direct or indirect use of force. Also included are acts of subversion and sabotage. These are aspects of interference in Cambodia's internal affairs which make the United Nations lose its neutral status. It also goes against its own Charter and principles of international law.

Dear comrades and friends: In the new and important stage when our motherland turns from war to peace with contributions from the international community and the United Nations, we should realize that the search for a solution is a process that cannot be as quick as our people have hoped. Despite our state's genuine goodwill, the other side continues to adhere to a changing stand and does not yet have a real united position and a peaceful way to replace the military means. Despite all this, our National Assembly continues to delegate the power to the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers to strive to take part in every negotiating forum on the Cambodian people's behalf aimed at bringing peace to the motherland and defending the supreme interests of our nation and people.

For this reason, every member of our National Assembly, upon returning to their respective constituencies, please disseminate, explain, and clearly inform our masses and people about this to promote vigilance against all kinds of eventual maneuvers in the process to find a political solution and during a political solution. In particular, our masses and people should be made to realize that the other side will certainly have another go at a military attempt this dry season to increase its propaganda voice in the international areana and to have the edge on the battlefield and to seize territory and people to put pressure at the negotiating table and prepare for elections in the event there is a political solution. The will to have genuine peace is fine, but this cannot circumvent obstacles, complex difficulties, and dangerous threats, particularly the threat of the genoicidal Pol Pot regime's return.

Therefore, the all-around struggle in this stage should be automatic, and vigilance should not be relaxed. The victory of our people's brilliant struggle will continue our glorious tradition tomorrow if today we have made all preparations and are unswerving in our position and views. It will continue if we strengthen and expand solidarity and unity around the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party to carry on assisting the building of ideology, use this as a firm platform, and are the master in every situation, circumstance, and eventuality.

Friends and the international community can help us only if we can truly organize ourselves. We should not wait for peace, but we should do everything to have this peace in our country as quickly as possible—peace which comes from the resolute struggle and combined forces of our entire society and nation—by achieving national independence, peace, national reconciliation; safeguarding our sovereignty, social and national gains, and our people's right to self-determination; and preventing the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return. This time is certainly most precious, particularly when we are implementing the slogan "Everything for serving the battlefield; everything for increasing our people's confidence in our new regime."

With gratitude for the honorary presence of the clergy and all national and foreign guests, I wish all our National Assembly members good health and success in every task assigned by the state and people. On behalf of the presiding committee, I declare the extraordinary session of the first National Assembly closed. [applause] [end Chea Sim recording]

Afterward, Comrade Chairman Chea Sim signed and ratified all the documents adopted by the State of Cambodia's National Assembly. This ceremony ended in an atmosphere of unity with firm confidence in the leadership of the State of Cambodia's party and state.

AFP: Phnom Penh Wants Factions at Meeting

BK0611122490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 6 (AFP)—Phnom Penh wants Cambodia's warring factions to attend a planned meeting in Jakarta this week to draft an overall peace plan for the country, diplomats said here Tuesday. The suggestion was made in a letter from Phnom Penh deputy Foreign Minister Sok An to Thai Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Kasem S. Kasemsi, they said.

Mr. Sok An said an interim authority grouping representatives of the factions should be invited to attend the Jakarta talks slated to begin Friday.

The interim authority or Supreme National Council (SNC), agreed on at talks in Jakarta in early September, groups six representatives from Phnom Penh and six from the tripartite resistance coalition dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge. The four factions, which have also accepted a United Nations framework to end the 12-year-old Cambodian war, have since disagreed over including the nominal leader of the coalition, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as SNC chairman.

The Jakarta meeting is aimed at reviving last year's failed Paris Conference on Cambodia and drafting a peace accord based on the U.N. blueprint put together by the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States. All five together with India, Canada, Laos, Malaysia, Australia and Japan—joint heads of the three commissions set up at the Paris Conference—will be present in Jakarta along with a representative of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

A senior diplomat, quoting Vietnamese sources, said in Phnom Penh last week that there were moves to invite Vietnam and Thailand to take part in the discussions but he gave no further details.

Last year's Paris conference, co-chaired by France and Indonesia, broke up in stalemate, largerly because the Cambodian factions could not reach a compromise on power-sharing.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 to oust the Marxist Khmer Rouge and install the current government in Phnom Penh.

'Senior Official' Says Amnesty to 24 Soldiers

BK0611164590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1617 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 6 (AFP)—The Cambodian Government has granted amnesty to 24 soldiers, many of them convicted murderers, a senior official said here Tuesday. State Council Secretary General Chan Ven told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the 24 were "mostly killers" and added that a small number had been released from jail but the majority had had their sentences reduced. He said all were convicted on criminal charges, adding that none had any connection to senior officers placed under house arrest in May for trying to set up a political organisation.

He said that two ranking military men detained then were still under house arrest for "political" reasons. They were detained along with former Transport Minister Ung Phan and at least two other officials.

Mr. Chan Ven said the State Council at a recent meeting had granted amnesty to the 24 at the request of the Defence Ministry.

He said the amnesties were to mark the Cambodian new year in April and that the delay had been due to paperwork.

The senior official said the government traditionally granted amnesty to a certain number of prisoners at the new year and to mark the January 7, 1979 liberation of Phnom Penh by Vietnamese troops who ousted the Khmer Rouge.

Hor Namhong Receives UNHCR Representative

BK0611124490 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 6 November (SPK)—On the morning of 5 November in Phnom Penh, the State of Cambodia's Foreign Minister Hor Namhong received Martin Douglas Stafford, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], who was visiting Cambodia.

At the talks, which specifically focused on the issue of the voluntary repatriation of Cambodian refugees, Martin Douglas Stafford said:

"The objective of the UNHCR delegation's visit is to study the Orderly Departure Program for Cambodian refugees, particularly those who will be repatriated from Indonesia. The UNHCR asks the Government of the the State of Cambodia to arrange transportation for it and facilitate its mission in Cambodia as well."

Hor Namhong welcomed the delegation's presence in Cambodia, saying the visit would allow the mission to understand the real situation in Cambodia.

Regarding the refugee issue, the Cambodian foreign minister hoped the UNHCR would soon organize the repatriation of the refugees, but the latter should be free to make their decisions without any outside pressure.

Hor Namhong thanked the UNHCR for having put the Cambodian refugee issue above all other considerations.

Soviet Cooperation, Aid Since 1979 Reviewed

BK0511093090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Summary] "The Soviet economic aid to the Cambodian people within the framework of the Cambodian-Soviet cooperation which has been expanded since 7 January 1979 is in three forms, namely cooperation within the framework of aid without strings attached, cooperation in trade exchange, and cooperation in the forms of grants."

The Cambodian-Soviet cooperation proceeded in two periods, that is the periods of 1980-85 and 1986-90.

During the 1980-85 cooperation in the form of unconditional aid, the Soviet Union provided a large quantity of various kinds of aid to Cambodia, such as goods, funds, and training.

"The Soviet Union's aid and cooperation with Cambodia since 1979 has been immense and of strategic significance to our Cambodian national defense and construction work. This effective and timely assistance has significantly contributed to all-around successes scored by Cambodia."

Leaders Greet Newly Appointed Libyan Officials

BK0311043890 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0204 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 01—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, has congratulated Abou Zeid Omar Dorba on his election as secretary of the General People's Committee [GPC] of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

In his congratulatory message, Chairman Hun Sen said he believed that the existing solidarity and friendship between the two countries would be further consolidated and developed for the two peoples' well-being and common interests.

Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, has congratulated Ibrahim Mohamed Albashari on his election as secretary of the GPC for Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

In his message, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong expressed his wish for closer ties of friendship between the two countries.

Son Sann Says To Make New Proposal 'Soon'

BK0711115290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Interview with Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, by station correspondent, in Bangkok before his departure for the United States; on 1 November—recorded]

[Summary] [Correspondent] Lately, we have learned that after you wrote to all members of the Supreme National Council [SNC], the Phnom Penh side replied. What is your view on the Hun Sen group's answer?

[Son Sann] I recently received a collective reply from the SNC members in Phnom Penh. I have pleaded with them for pity on our people and have asked them to agree to meet with the parties of Samdech Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan and our party to reach an agreement in keeping with the wishes of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. We should agree to elect Samdech Norodom Sihanouk the SNC chairman and the 13th SNC member. "I have pleaded with them to reach an agreement among ourselves and to compromise on the Big Five's peace plan for Cambodia. We should not wait, as the Big Five have already agreed among themselves and will certainly force us to do the same. It is better if we do it by ourselves. The Cambodians should settle their problems themselves. I cannot totally reveal the reply of the six members in Phnom Penh. I just want to say what I can because the matter is still going on, but I will continue to plead with them." In its answer, the Phnom Penh side raised many more conditions. After asking for the vice chairman position, they now want to be appointed as cochairman or rotation chairman.

No matter what, I will continue to strive to achieve peace for our people. I will soon put forth another proposal to all SNC members, including the six members from the Phnom Penh side. I will arrange to accommodate the desires of the Phnom Penh side but the latter should implement the Big Five's peace plan and bring it to success.

[Correspondent] In its answer, the Phnom Penh side reaffirmed its willingness to restore peace quickly to Cambodia. So, what is the relevant stance of the resistance, in particular that of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] headed by your excellency?

[Son Sann] If this is true, I am very happy because it is my wish. I have noted, however, that after each meeting, the fighting has intensified. I am a bit disappointed with this. Now, I have heard a Cambodian party is poised to launch large-scale fighting in the approaching dry season. So, I beg that party to stop. "I plan to present another proposal to the SNC members, including the members of the Phnom Penh side, the samdech, and Khieu Samphan to implement successfully the Big Five's plan and to prevent the war from continuing. This is my aim; the significance of my proposal will be made known shortly. I will strive to accomplish my plea at all costs. So, compatriots in the country should not lose hope. Nobody can confront the Big Five." If the Phnom Penh side continues to ask for concessions, the people's suffering will continue without end. By all accounts, I know our compatriots will soon be happy because peace will certainly come in the near future or at the latest by the end of this year.

As for the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia and the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, they completely support and agree with me.

[Correspondent] What about your request for the release of political prisoners held by the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime?

[Son Sann] I have learned that the prisoners' conditions have improved. The prisoners have been allowed to go out of their cells and have been provided with better rations. "If this is true, I would like to thank all the officials in Phnom Penh for having felt pity for our countrymen."

[Correspondent] What is your opinion about the Heng Samrin regime's consent to the Vietnamese to log in our forests?

[Son Sann] I have heard the good news that a Phnom Penh authority has issued an order banning the Vietnamese from cutting trees in a region. I would like to praise the authority for its correct action in protecting our forests.

[Correspondent] In concluding this interview, what suggestions do you have for our listeners?

[Son Sann] My primary objective is to see peace restored to Cambodia and the reunification of Cambodians. "So, I would like to call on all SNC members to agree to meet and to understand each other. If we understand each other, we can discuss everything together. If we compromise, we can achieve a lot of things for the sake of the nation's interest."

Indonesia

Government Rejects Fretilin Offer for Talks

BK0611163290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 6 (AFP)—Indonesia Tuesday rejected an offer of peace talks from Fretilin, the rebel movement in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, describing it as "an old song unworthy of comment." "The Indonesian Government does not recognise the existence of Fretilin as representing the people of East Timor... So why should we heed them," the official ANTARA NEWS AGENCY quoted Foreign Minister Ali Alatas as saying.

Xanana Gusmao, a leader of the East Timor National Liberation Front (Fretilin) which has been waging a guerilla war since Jakarta annexed the territory in 1976, told Australian journalists recently he was "ready to discuss any project for a solution without preconditions under the United Nations auspices".

Speaking from his mountain hideout in East Timor, Mr. Gusmao called on Indonesia to adopt "a more flexible policy" and proposed negotiations "between the people of East Timor and Jakarta" leaving out Portugal, which the United Nations continues to recognize as the territory's administering power.

"If Jakarta does not adopt a more flexible attitude, Fretilin is prepared to continue to resist for as long as necessary", he said, according to reports carried by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and published by the the age of Melbourne last week.

Fretilin's ambassador at large, Jose Ramos Horta, told a forum in the north Australian city of Darwin Saturday that Mr. Gusmao wanted to see an end to hostilities. Mr. Horta said the Fretilin peace initiative was unconditional. "Xanana wants to discuss every option. There will be no preconditions."

Indonesia invaded East Timor in late 1975 after Fretilin proclaimed it independent as the Portugese administration withdrew. Jakarta unilaterally incorporated the territory of some 600,000 people six months later. As far as the Jakarta was concerned, the issue was resolved when the majority of East Timorese voted for integration with Indonesia when the territory was decolonised, Mr. Alatas said.

Indonesia is currently holding talks with Portugal in New York under the auspices of U.N. Secretary General

Javier Perez de Cuellar. Both sides are preparing for the visit of a Portugese parliamentary delegation scheduled for next year.

Diplomatic sources in Jakarta have said that a U.N. fact finding mission could soon visit the territory where there have been several student protests against Indonesian rule in the past few months. In the latest incident in October about 30 students were arrested and severely beaten, with 10 still being held, diplomatic sources here said.

Military officials in East Timor say Fretilin has been reduced to a force of about 170 men and no longer poses a threat or security problem.

Ethiopian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 2 Nov

BK0211153390 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0649 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 2 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Deputy Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Fisseha Yimmer, on Friday morning paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the Pancasila building of the Foreign Office at Pejambon here. He is on a four-day visit to Indonesia.

Yimmer (50), accompanied by Akalu Mekonnen and Goitom Kal Saye, director for Asian Affairs and head of the Indonesian section of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs respectively will proceed to Bandung for a two-day visit, November 2-4, to make a survey tour of the Asia-Africa building, the shoe industry at Cibaduyut and the PTN [National Aircraft Industry] airplane plant.

On Saturday, he is scheduled to give a press statement on the purpose of his visit to Indonesia at the Foreign Office in Jakarta.

Government 'Resolved' To Fight Rising Inflation

BK0711104490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 7 (AFP)—The Indonesian Government said Wednesday it is resolved to keep inflation, which already hit 9.14 per cent in the first 10 months of this year, in single digits even if it means slower economic growth.

"It is better to apply the brake now in order to be able to move forward in the future, rather than letting everything loose now and then get stuck," Bank Indonesia (central bank) Governor Adrianus Mooy said before a Cabinet meeting. "Our priority is to bring inflation under control. We have to work hard to avoid inflation reaching double digits," he said, adding that the government had only two months left in the year.

The government has tightened the money supply in recent months in its efforts to check price increases, which had been fuelled in part by hikes in domestic fuel prices in June and by a surge in consumer demand, unleashed by improvement in their income. The immediate impact on this had been on bank lending rates which this month hit a range of 22-27 per cent, bankers said.

Information Minister Harmoko announced after the Cabinet meeting that the inflation rate hit 1.03 per cent in October, bringing the total increase in the consumer price index to 9.14 per cent in January to October. This is well above the government original target of five per cent set at the start of the year and the 5.5 per cent recorded in the corresponding period of 1989.

Mr. Harmoko also said Indonesia posted an 86 million dollar trade surplus in August with exports worth 2,119 million and imports of 2,033 million dollars. By comparison, Indonesia had a 94 million dollar surplus in July from exports of 1,792 million and imports of 1,698 million dollars. Trade surplus was 468 million dollars in August 1989 through exports of 1,892 million dollars and imports of 1,424 million dollars, according to official figures.

Laos

Leaders Greet Soviet Counterparts on Revolution

BK0711042290 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] On 6 November 1990, on behalf of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], the Council of Ministers, and the multiethnic Lao people, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic; and Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the SPA of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, jointly sent a message of warm greetings and best wishes to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Soviet Union; Comrade Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on the occasion of the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR].

In the message, our Lao comrade leaders highly assess the victory of the GOSR and consider it as a very significant event in the history of socialism in human society, the event that notified the various nations in the world of the path of struggle for a bright future and the path of freedom, national independence, and social progress.

On behalf of the Lao party, government, and people, our Lao comrade leaders also express wholehearted commendation to the Soviet people for their great achievements, in particular the initial achievements scored in carrying out the cause of perestroyka. At the same time, they reiterate their full support for the peace policy, initiatives, and concrete steps of the Soviet Union in the struggle for world peace, security, and cooperation.

On this occasion, our Lao comrade leaders also express sincere thanks to the party, government, and fraternal people of the Soviet Union for having always rendered great and effective support and assistance to the Lao revolution. They express conviction that on the basis of the new changes in our country and in the Soviet Union, the solidarity and relations in all respects between the two countries will be further consolidated and enhanced. They also wish the fraternal Soviet people new achievements in perfecting socialism in the Soviet Union and glorious achievements in leading the country to march toward prosperity and civilization for the happy and plentiful life of their own as well as of the people of the next generations.

In conclusion, they wish for the ever firmer strengthening and more fruitful development of the friendship and all-around cooperation between Laos and the Soviet Union.

On the same occasion, Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, sent a greetings message to Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister of the Soviet Union.

Trade Union Group Departs for SRV, USSR

BK0711105290 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 7 (KPL)—A delegation of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions led by its president, Mr. Bounthan Souvannasouk, left here yesterday afternoon for Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to attend the 2nd session of the presidents of the trade unions of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia held on Nov 8-11, 1990.

From Vietnam, the delegation will then fly to the Soviet Union to attend the 12th session of the World Federation of Trade Unions to be held in Moscow between November 13-20. During the stay in the Soviet Union, the Lao delegation will present gifts collected from various grass-root trade union cells from all parts of the country to the session, and hold an exposition to raise a fund donated to the victims of the Chernobyl radioactivity.

Sali Vongkhamsao Receives Japanese Delegation

BK0511150190 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 5 (KPL)—A visiting delegation of the Japanese-Lao Friendship Association led by its President Mr. M. Takeda paid a courtesy visit here on November 2 to Mr. Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers [CM] and minister of economy, planning and finance. The discussion dealt with the cooperation between the associations since their formation in 1988.

The CM vice chairman congratulated Mr. M. Takeda on his appointment to the presidency of the Japanese-Lao Friendship Association. He was once Japanese ambassador to Laos. This has acquainted him with the traditional, cultural practices, ways of living of Lao people, thus contributing to the development of friendship and cooperation between Lao and Japanese peoples.

On Nov 3, the Japanese delegation called on Vientiane Mayor Mr. Sisavat Keobounphan.

Japanese Institute Presents Aid to Children

BK0311062490 Vientiane KPL in English 0940 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 2 (KPL)—The Japan's Technical Research Institute of Overseas Developers, yesterday morning, presented a consignment of aid worth 2,100 U.S. dollars to the National Commission for International Children's Year.

On this occasion, the president of the Lao commission expressed thanks to Mr. Michio Inamura, director of the Japanese institute for the assistance to Lao children.

The consignment is composed of 50 sewing machines and garments.

This is the first time this Japan's Technical Research Institute of Overseas Developers has rendered assistance to Laos.

Philippines

Communist Rebels Take U.S. Missionary Hostage

HK0711030290 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 7 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[By staffmembers Manny Mogato and Marie Rose Feliciano]

[Text] An American Protestant missionary, who was a former Marine soldier, was taken hostage by a group of communist rebels in Aparri, Cagayan, two weeks ago, a military report in Camp Crame said yesterday.

Harvey Brown Duane, of Seattle, Washington, was driving a chartered jeep owned by a certain Romeo Manalo along the national highway in Barangay Zinara, Aparri, when rebels snatched him.

U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrager said last night that the U.S. Embassy in Manila received reports last month that an American was kidnapped by members of the New People's Army (NPA). Schrager said embassy officials still do not know the name of the American but confirmed that they are working with the police to verify the report.

"It was brought to our attention several days ago. We know about it," he said. Schrager said the embassy does not know whether the kidnapping incident is related to the bases talks to begin this week.

The rebels, according to the report, were fleeing from an army platoon after a gunfight when the American missionary was kidnapped.

Col. Miguel Fontanilla, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] regional commander, in a report to Camp Crame said the rebels first set up a checkpoint at Barangay Bangag, also in Aparri at about 5 P.M. last October 24, at the height of the nationwide Welgang Bayan [Nationwide Strike] staged by the transport and labor groups.

The rebels stopped a Pantranco bus and six other cargo trucks carrying lumber, forced the passengers and drivers to get out and burned the vehicles.

In nearby Zinarag, they also stopped and burned another truck owned by the mayor of Abulog town and the father of Cagayan Governor Melvin Vargas.

At about 8:30 P.M., a jeepload of army soldiers passed by the area and was ambushed by the rebels. The soldiers fought back and were able to ask for reinforcement. The reinforcement was ambushed along the way.

The third group of army reinforcement came forcing the rebels to disperse in three groups and fled. One of the rebel groups chanced upon the American missionary. They took the missionary in his vehicle at gunpoint.

Pursuit of Kidnappers Ordered

HK0711102190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has ordered the military to pursue the kidnappers of American national Duane. Cagayan police commander Colonel Miguel Fontanilla earlier said Duane was abducted in Aparri on board a jeep. The rebels who had set up a checkpoint in the area reportedly stopped the jeep. Duane is said to be a missionary. If we recall, most of the Peace Corps missionaries [as heard] were pulled out by the United States because of threats of violence by the communist rebels.

The third round of talks concerning the U.S. military bases begin tomorrow.

Bases Retention 'May' Mean Involvement in War

HK0711113390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 7 Nov 90

[By Angie Delfino]

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada warned the Philippines may get involved in a third world war if it allows the U.S. bases to remain in the country. The senator announced this following the reported pressure by the U.S. Government on the Aquino government to extend the stay of the U.S. facilities in the country. Tanada stressed as long as the U.S. bases are in the country, the Philippines will always face the risk of having to get involved in any war in which the U.S. is involved. It will be recalled that recently, the U.S. Government prepared its Armed Forces, including soldiers and warships based in Clark and Subic, for its plan to attack the forces of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The United States had gone to war with several countries and it used not only American soldiers from Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base but also some members of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]. Earlier, Secretary Alfredo Bengzon disclosed General de Villa, Central Bank Governor Cuisia, and Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao were putting pressure on the Philippine panel to favor the retention of the U.S. facilities in the country.

U.S. Military Bases Negotiations Resume 7 Nov

HK0711032590 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 90 7 Nov 90

[Text] The RP [Republic of the Philipines]-U.S. talks on the future of the military bases resume today. According to Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, the talks are to follow the same agenda of prior negotiations. The resumption of talks are to be held at the Central Bank building at Roxas Boulevard under tight security. U.S. special negotiator Richard Armitage is expected to arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and from there proceed to the Central Bank to open the talks.

Manglapus also disclosed that the U.S. panel is expected to present its proposals and the Philippines will respond in the appropriate manner.

U.S. Special Negotiator Arrives

HK0711105390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] President Bush's special negotiator for the RP-U.S. military bases talks Richard Armitage arrived at 1320 this afternoon. Armitage's airplane landed at the old MIA [Manila International Airport] not far from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The official was with an 11-man group comprising the American panel to talk with the Philippine Government regarding the stay of the U.S. military bases here. The third round of talks on the issue will be held today at the Central Bank building. The Philippine panel will be headed by the Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus.

Negotiators Reportedly Pressured

HK0711061090 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Some economic managers and high-ranking military officials are allegedly pressuring Filipino negotiators in the bases talks in order to favor the extension of the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. This was disclosed by Health Secretary Alran Bengzon. He identified the officials as Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia, and Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa. According to Bengzon, they want the panel to decide immediately and settle the talks amicably. The health secretary understands the measures taken by Estanialao, Cuisia, and De Villa regarding the future of U.S. bases because of its direct link with issues concerning national security, foreign debt, and the economy.

Bases Conditional Stay Supported

HK0711113790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Italicized portions in English]

[Text] Former Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago supported the retention of the U.S. military bases in the country on the condition that Philippine products are allowed to enter the United States free of tariff. Mrs. Santiago told Liberty in Action this morning if trade between the United States and the Philippines improves, our economy will progress. Santiago also proposed the United States should be charged a $1-billion rent per year. Here is part of Santiago's statement:

[Begin recording] We should tell the Americans we will continue our agreement for their bases' stay in our country, if they agree that our products can enter the United States. *In other words, their commodities market shall be opened on a preferential basis to Filipino commodity.* With this I mean they should accept our exports without tariffs, quotas, or exclusion lists, and just allow the entry of our products. We can get more money from doing this, more than the rent sought. *That should be the condition.* The Americans did this before on the so-called Caribbean Basin initiative, in which products from the Caribbean nations were allowed to enter the U.S. without tariffs, quotas, or exclusionary lists. They did this to help these nations. [end recording]

New Permit Facilitates Foreign Investors' Travel

HK0711031290 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 7 Nov 90 p 1

[By staffmember Cherry Velarde]

[Text] The Government is now accepting applications for a special permit that allows a foreigner, so long as he invests $100,000 (P [Philippine Peso] 2.8 million) in the country, to come and go, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo announced yesterday. This is basically the same immigration privilege given diplomats.

Domingo made it clear, however, that the required investment must have been in an active business at the time of the application.

The privilege eliminates for foreigners, who, whether permanent or temporary residents, the need to obtain a visa to re-enter the country from Philippine missions abroad, which can be a tedious process. The investor's special permit is as good as a re-entry visa. In fact, it is officially called Special Permit to Re-enter (SPR).

It also works as passports for foreigners unable to obtain them from their home countries and for the stateless, like a number of Chinese, in the country. Under previous arrangements, these foreigners are automatically deported.

A foreigner who now keeps an active investment of $100,000 and holds a temporary resident's visa gets his SPR upon application. For those less invested, all they need to do is raise their investments to the required amount.

Domingo said the program would improve the Philippines' chances in the competition for foreign investments with other Asian countries which grant similar incentives.

She saw as particular prospects businessmen preferring to invest elsewhere once Hong Kong is ceded to China in 1997 and Taiwanese attracted to the Philippines but discouraged by red tape.

The authorities have raised the possibility of extending the privilege to investors from socialist countries like Eastern Europe, Soviet Union, China and North Korea.

The restrictions have been especially tight for them because of a tradition of suspicion engendered by their communist ideology. For intance, unless cleared by the intelligence agencies, they are not allowed to enter.

With the increasing liberalization in those countries, especially the Eastern Eueopean ones, Philippine policies toward them have begun to ease.

The permit will cost P5,000. An applicant gets it within 10 days, within which time he is required to be in the country. It will be in booklet form. With it, Domingo said, all its holder needs to be allowed to re-enter is to show it for stamping at the immigration counter at the port.

For permanent residents without passports, justification is required for their inability to obtain passports and proof of residence in the country, Domingo said.

For an investor, all he needs to show is their special investors' residence visa or a special retiree's residence visa and a certification from the Central Bank and the Securities and Exchange Commission as to the amount and status of his investment.

No one, however, is exempted from basic immigration rules, like those requiring alien certificates of registration and certificates of residency, Domingo warned.

Mitra Formally Announces Presidential Bid

HK0711061390 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr formally announced his intention to run for the presidency in 1992 under the LDP [Struggle for Philippine Democrats] banner. This took place at a dinner meeting of LDP independent groups in the Casa Marcos Restaurant in Greenhills. According to Cavite Congressman Leonardo Guerrero, he thinks Mitra will get the nomination to be the LDP standard bearer for 1992 from all the party members. Some sources claim that Mitra is choosing between Senator Estrada and Senator John Osmena to be his running mate.

Defense Department's Problems Include Funding

HK0711061590 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The lower house disclosed that the Department of National Defense faces eight problems, four of them involve financial funds. The House sub-committee on defense learned that the department's operations were severely affected due to the Department of Budget and Management's slow release of funds. This station also learned that the Commission on Audit representative was not allowed to audit intelligence and contingency funds, which are suspected to having been handled badly.

Exclusion of PC Trainees From Rite Protested

HK0711120790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Forty-six trainees from the PC [Philippine Constabulary] Special Action Force staged a walk out at the Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig, Metro Manila in protest against the exclusion of eight of their colleagues from their graduation scheduled at nine o'clock this morning. Elements of the Mandaluyong police and the public who witnessed the trainees marching on EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] down to Camp Crame were surprised because the soldiers were in camouflage uniforms and carrying armalites. It was learned that the group of trainees were given a free ride by a trailer truck from Camp Bagong Diwa to Shaw Boulevard where they encountered the Mandaluyong police which alerted the Capital Region Command of the unauthorized movement. The group's leader clarified they do not intend to hurt others as their guns are not loaded. The leader was identified as Reynaldo Villareal, who justified the protest march early this morning. At present, the trainees are in Camp Crame and are being investigated by Lieutenant Hermogenes Ablani, the chief of the Regional Special Action Force.

Communist Rebels Burn Vehicles in Davao 5 Nov

HK0711031390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Nov 90 p 19

[By Bong Reblando]

[Text]General Santos City—Communist rebels set on fire two buses and three other vehicles Monday night along the national highway in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, the second terrorist incident within two weeks in North Cotabato.

Last Oct. 25, a NPA [New People's Army] rebel band also burned a bus as a show of support for the "Welga ng Bayan [Nationwide Strike]." Witnesses said that four fatigue-clad gunmen posing as soldiers flagged down a bus of the Mindanao Transit Co. and sprayed its tires with gunfire after it stopped.

Another air conditioned bus of the Yellow Bus Line, followed by three other motor vehicles—all bound for Davao City—were also stopped by the suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels who appeared in great number and surrounded the vehicles.

After ordering the passengers to alight from the vehicles, the rebels poured gasoline on the vehicles and set them on fire. As flames engulfed the vehicles, the rebels boarded three big motorized pumpboats docked some 50 meters away from the highway and sped off in the darkness.

Quezon Clash Reported; NPA Rebel Arrested

HK0711120390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 7 Nov 90

[By Rolly Sanchez, DWTI, Lucena City]

[Text] A Springfield gun used during the Second World War was recovered by the elements of the 76th Infantry Battalion after a 30-second [as heard] gunfight in Sition San Rogue, Barangay Milagrosa, Catanuan, Quezon two days ago. Southern Luzon Command [SolCom] commander Brigadier General Federico Ruiz, Jr. said the Army group led by Staff Sergeant Hernan Zarzuela was patrolling the barangay when it encountered a group of New People's Army [NPA] rebels recruiting members and collecting taxes in the area. The military surrounded the place and fighting ensued. There were no reports of casualties on either side.

Meanwhile in Sorsogon, a regular NPA member was arrested by the military in Sitio Nalupihan, Barangay San Isidro, Castilla, Sorsogon, two days ago. According to SolCom chief Brigadier General Federico Ruiz, Jr., the rebel was identified as Efren Bien y Candol alias Abe, 24 years old and married. Based on the tactical interrogation, the rebel admitted operating in the whole town of Castilla under the leadership of a certain Comrade Ramon. Ruiz added that the 257th Philippine Constabulary Company was responsible for the arrest of the rebel, who is now under its custody.

Rebels Gunned Down After Killing Policeman

HK0711031590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Nov 90 pp 1, 19

[By Ped Velasco]

[Text] Tagum, Davao del Norte—Eight suspected Sparrow hit men of the New People's Army (NPA) who had earlier killed a policeman were gunned down in a shootout with PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] operatives inside a downtown lodging house on Roxas St., this town, at about 12:30 a.m. yesterday.

Bodies of the slain NPA hit men were brought to the funeral parlor but have remained unidentified as of yesterday afternoon, according to Lt. Col. Ricardo de Leon, Davao del Norte PC-INP chief, in his report to Col. Manuel Calimbangon, PC-INP Recom 11 commander.

De Leon identified the slain policeman as Pfc. Jeremias Balos, 32, of the Tagum police force, who was killed in front of the police outpost at Misa district at 9 p.m. Monday. He suffered three bullet wounds in the head.

The killers fled after divesting the victim of his baby Armalite rifle and .38 caliber service revolver. But pursuit operations were immediately launched against them.

With the cooperation of civilians, the PC-INP posse located the NPA hit men at the Horseman lodging house. The area was cordoned off by the lawmen and the suspects were ordered to surrender. But the NPA hit men fired at the lawmen, according to De Leon, prompting them to assault the lodging house, killing the suspects in the firefight.

Seized from the slain NPA hit men were handguns, five identification cards including PC-INP and a police ID, military uniforms and personal belongings of the suspects.

'Failure' in Counterinsurgency Drive Discussed

HK0711031190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 7 Nov 90 p 6

[By staffmember Manny Mogato]

[Text] Military officials yesterday blamed the lack of coordination between civilian and military officials as one of the reasons for the failure of the government's counterinsurgency program.

Brig. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] deputy chief of staff for operations (J-3), said military operations to "clear, hold, consolidate, and develop" a rebel-infested area in the country sometimes failed because "the military rely mainly on their own initiative without coordinating with civilian officials." He said economic and political actions initiated by the local officials should complement military actions to defeat the communist insurgency.

Abadia's observations were made during a dialogue between defense and military officials and the leaders and members of the City and Municipal Mayors League headed by Brigido Simon Jr. of Quezon City.

The meeting between military and local officials was called by Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos after the local officials passed a resolution asking the government to suspend military operations in the countryside because the local government units are not ready to deal with socioeconomic and political problems caused by the military operations like refugee problems.

The resolution was sponsored by Mayor Rowena Guanzon of Cadiz City in Negros Occidental after local officials complained about the heavy flows of refugees in areas where the military has launched operations against the rebels.

They cited the "Chicks" areas in Negros Occidental covering the municipalities of Cauayan, Hinoba-an, Ilog, Kabankalan and Sipalay, and in Esperanza town in Agusan del Sur where the military's counterinsurgency operations resulted in mass evacuations of residents, giving local officials problems in feeding and sheltering the dislocated residents.

Urban Guerrillas Accused of 'Random Violence'

HK0711051590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0508 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Manila, Nov 7 (AFP)—The outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has reprimanded its urban guerrillas here for random violence and ordered them to focus on "imperialist" targets instead, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The DAILY GLOBE said it obtained an urgent instruction from the CPP executive committee ordering the Manila-based Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) to stop "unjust" actions that isolate the communist movement from the people.

Twenty-four buses and other vehicles were torched by ABB men and strikers during and immediately after the October 24 general strike for higher wages which left four dead in Manila and nearby provinces. The violence brought popular revulsion for the ABB, which has assassinated more than 200 soldiers, policemen and civilians in the capital since 1987.

"Military operations must be directed at imperialists and main beneficiaries of anti-people economic policies," the DAILY GLOBE quoted the CPP instruction as saying in an apparent reference to U.S. targets and Filipino business firms.

The GLOBE said sources in the communist underground disclosed that the new doctrine of politico-military insurrection, tried out for the first time during the strike, would be reviewed.

The increasing autonomy of the ABB, estimated to have at least 100 urban guerrillas operating from congested communities in Manila and suburbs, has been criticized even within the CPP, the GLOBE said. The ongoing debate could lead to the banishment of Manila cadres to the countryside for reeducation on warfare, the newspaper added.

The ABB is nominally a unit of the CPP's military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), but has its own distinct structure and operational setup, compared to regular NPA forces based in the countryside.

The alleged second in command of the ABB, Reynaldo Bernardo, was arrested by army troops and police last Sunday. He was linked to the April 1989 murder of U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe in suburban Manila.

More on 'Urgent Instruction No 2'

HK0711055790 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines' [CPP] national executive committee criticized the Alex Buncayao Brigade's [ABB] burning of 23 buses and other vehicles during the height of the nationwide strike. In a document entitled Urgent Instruction No. 2, the committee said the ABB's operations should be stopped immediately because they go against their policy on military operations. The ABB is the New People's Army's guerrilla unit in Metro Manila. The committee reiterated that the ABB's burning of buses will not contribute to their cause but will result in declining support from the citizenry. Urgent Instruction No. 2 was released for the Manila-Rizal regional command and the United Front Committee.

Meanwhile, the ABB is expanding its special partisan operations, like criminality, in order to solicit funds and attract propaganda mileage. This information is contained in a classified intelligence report. At the same time, the rebels launched Operation Dirty Job which is the code name of their criminal activities, i.e. robbery, extortion, car stealing, and holdups.

Two Killed, Nine Wounded in Bombing Incident

HK0711120190 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Two people were killed while nine were wounded in a bombing incident in a mountainous barangay in Davao City. Benjamin Heperola, a councilman of Paradise Imbac, Davao City, said before the bombing, the barangay received as guests about 100 armed men reportedly headed by Commander Parago. Before the rebels left, they reportedly warned the residents not to report their visit to the barangay. Shortly after dark, the bombings started and the residents thought an encounter between the rebels and the military was taking place. However, according to Davao Metropolitan District Command Chief Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Estares, the bombings were conducted by the rebels in an effort to put the blame on the military.

MNLF Officer, Aide Captured in Palawan

HK0711031790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Nov 90 p 12

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Puerto Princesa City—The finance officer of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] and his aide were captured recently here by a PC [Philippine Constabulary]-police team led by Sgt. Eliseo Crispo, Quezon town police chief, said. However, two others espcaped, Crispo said.

Lt. Col. Nestorio B. Gualoerto, Palawan PC chief, said in his report to Brig. Gen. Evaristo G. Carino, Recom [Regional Command] 4 PC-INP [Integrated National Police] chief, that captured were Caib Aradin, suspected MNLF finance officer for Zone 11, Southern Palawan State Revolutionary group, and his aide, Pio Jalbuena.

Aradin's capture followed those of Hadji Joel Jabil, alias ""Ka [comrade] Romy Daimon," in Brookes Point and Hadji Nasir Hamid of Basilan and the surrender of Romeo Padong Laping, Gualberto said.

Maj. Jose Balane, 264th PC commander, said Hamid told him about the expansion program of the MNLF's Basilan Revolutionary Committee (BRC) in Palawan. Hamid added he was ordered by Commander Jamil Daimon, BRC chief, to recruit members and collect "taxes" from businessmen in Palawan to finance the underground movement.

Gualberto said that his men broke up a group of businessmen in southern Palawan giving progressvie taxes to the MNLF. He added thta the band of Aradin was believed to be the same group that burned the heavy equipment of a Korean [firm] building the Quezon Highway after it refused to pay taxes to the rebels. Aradin's group was held responsible for the burning of P40 million worth of heavy equipment of the firm.

Thailand

Minister Reviews Talks With PRC Leaders

BK0711013390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Nov 90 p A2

[Text] China welcomed a Thai-Vietnamese summit in Bangkok scheduled for later this month, Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan said yesterday. Subin quoted Chinese leaders as saying they were willing to see Thai-Vietnamese relations developing.

Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Co Thach, during his meetings here last week with Premier Chatchai Chunhawan and Subin, urged the two countries to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation especially on economic matters. Thach's initiative was warmly welcomed by Chatchai, who responded with an invitation for the summit to be held here between him and Vietnamese Premier Do Muoi later this month.

Chinese Embassy sources here declined to comment on the latest development in Thai-Vietnamese relations. But the sources reiterated that full normalization of the Sino-Vietnamese relations would take place only after the settlement of the Cambodian conflict. Thai observers believed such an attitude implied that China viewed such a Thai-Vietnamese development as being still too early.

Subin said he also informed the Chinese leaders of the Vietnamese Premier Do Muoi's visit to Thailand scheduled for Nov 21 to 25. Subin arrived here on Monday from his two-day visit to Beijing to get acquainted with Chinese leaders including Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and to discuss bilateral relations and possible ways to break the impasse in the Cambodian peace process.

Chatchai will visit Beijing from Nov 14 to 16 at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, according to Subin. The invitation was conveyed during Subin's meeting with Li Peng. On the Cambodian conflict, Subin said the Chinese leaders shared Thailand's view that the Supreme National Council (SNC) should function as soon as possible and asked for Thailand's cooperation in activating the council.

Subin quoted Li Peng as saying that the pending appointment of former Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the council's chairman should be the top priority to enable the SNC to function. The minister said the Chinese leader also agreed with Thailand that issues other than the question of chairmanship should be decided among the Cambodians themselves.

Foreign Ministry sources quoted the Chinese leaders as telling Subin that they would be prepared to accept whatever the council agreed on after the chairmanship issued is settled. The peace process has been bogged down by intra-Cambodian bickering over the nature and comnposition of the council.

Subin described his first visit to Beijing as foreign minister as "successful", saying both Thailand and China agreed to increase tangible cooperation on economics, trade and tourism. On economic cooperation, Subin said Li Peng was receptive to his proposal on joint water resource development on river Lan Xang, a tributary of upper Mekong river which runs through China, Burma and to Thailand.

Subin said he also proposed China together with Burma join the Mekong committee which handles the development of the Mekong basin. The Chinese premier responded by proposing the formation of a Thai-Chinese working committee to study and exchange information on the development. The committee will pave the way for the formation of the joint permanent committee, according to Subin.

On trade cooperation, Subin said Chinese Min Metal company agreed to increase the sale of cement to Thailand from 300,000 [metric] tons last year to 600,000 tons this year to help ease the shortage of cement in Thai industries. He said the Chinese Sin Chem company also agreed to increase its export quota of high-speed diesel to Thailand by 100,000-150,000 tons from 300,000 tons a year.

He said China agreed to buy tapioca in return but was still unsure whether to buy rice from Thailand. However, Thai rice export companies would send their representatives to China soon to follow up this issue. Subin said he also proposed the shipment of tapioca to China on the same cargo ship that would carry cement and oil products to Thailand in order to cut production costs by saving on transport expenses.

On tourism, the minister said the two countries also agreed to open a new flight route between Thailand's northern province of Chiang Mai and Kun Ming in China's southern province of Yunnan next year. Under an agreement, Thai Airways International will be allowed to operate five flights a week to China. But the company so far can accommodate only two flights a week due to a shortage of aircraft. China would be ready to open its Consulate General's office in Chiang Mai next year to facilitate business and tourism there, the minister said.

Australian Envoy Leaves After Cambodia Talks

BK0711131590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 7 (AFP)—A senior Australian diplomat left here Wednesday for Jakarta after talks on prospects for a settlement of the 12-year-old war in Cambodia, Australian Embassy officials said.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Secretary Michael Costello will be attending talks beginning Friday in the Indonesian capital on resuming the Paris international peace conference on Cambodia which stalled in August. Mr. Costello, closely involved in efforts to reach a peace accord, has visited Phnom Penh, Hanoi, Beijing, Pyongyang, and Bangkok to sound out opinion ahead of the talks.

The Jakarta meetings are intended to draft an overall peace plan and pave the way for a resumption of the Paris conference, co-chaired by France and Indonesia, which broke down when the four warring factions failed to agree over power-sharing. The talks will be attended by senior officials from Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union, the United States, India, Canada, Laos, Malaysia, Australia, Japan, Indonesia and a representative of the United Nations secretary general.

International efforts to settle the war have been blocked by differences among the Cambodian factions over the composition of a joint interim authority, the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Radio Truck Incident Still Creating Problems

Army Commander Interviewed

BK0611163690 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Interview with Army Commander in Chief General Suchinda Khraprayun by unidentified reporter on 6 November; place not given—portion recorded]

[Text] General Suchinda Khraprayun today discussed the question of the government's popularity in the eyes of the army. The army commander in chief had a question for the prime minister—whether the prime minister still cares for the military's faith in him. Gen. Suchinda said the mobile radio unit was only a small problem, and it should not be blown up into a big issue to create a rift in the nation. He pointed out that soldiers do not tolerate their boss being insulted. The army, he said, will support the supreme commander in all steps taken with regard to protecting national security and the dignity of the armed forces.

[Begin recording] [Suchinda, in progress] What else would you like to know?

[Unidentified reporter] What would be the reaction from the military?
[Suchinda] Let's put it this way. The army supports the supreme commander in whatever he does to protect national security and the dignity of the armed forces. No matter what kind of steps taken by him, the army fully supports the supreme commander.

[Reporter] Are you going to seek to talk with the prime minister in order to reach an understanding and improve the situation?
[Suchinda] That kind of a step must be taken by the persons involved in the controversy.

[Question indistinct]
[Suchinda] Everyone in the army is unhappy with it, and we think that if he fails to solve the problem correctly, the prime minister will risk losing his popularity among the military.

[Reporter] On what you have just said, will there be any action to back up that feeling?
[Suchinda] I have already said that we won't meddle with politics. But the prime minister will have to use his good judgment as to whether he still cares about having the faith of the military.

[Reporter] Do you want the minister in question to be removed?
[Suchinda] Well, we don't know about that. But the prime minister must tackle at the right spot what has been the reason for the government losing its credibility. [end recording]

Army Commander in Chief Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, in his capacity as commander of the Capital Security Command, accompanied by senior military officers, today visited the Metropolitan Police Headquarters. In his address, Gen. Suchinda told police officials that the police must coordinate with all agencies in order to improve performance. He quoted the king's speech given to military and police generals, who were given their new ranks yesterday, that the military and police officers must cooperate with each other in their task of maintaining law and order and safeguarding national security. The chief of the Capital Security Command also asked for greater attention to be paid to the intelligence service to help prevent undesirable incidents. He asked police officials to create trust in the people.

Minister Receives Bomb Threats

BK0711022490 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Nov 90 pp A1, A2

[Excerpt] Controversial PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung remained defiant yesterday in the wake of a military pledge to get tough with him, but said he had a sleepless Monday night because of a flood of bomb threats by telephone. "My family did not sleep last night, but I was not afraid," he said.

The military vowed Monday to find "appropriate, drastic" action against Chaloem who has locked horns with Supreme Commander Gen [General] Sunthon Khongsomphong over the controversial seizure of a mobile radio station by the armed forces in June.

The mobile station belongs to the Chaloem-supervised Mass Communications Organization of Thailand [MCOT], accused by the military of using the equipment to monitor confidential security communications.

"Somebody might have a lot of fun last night (because) I received several kinds of bomb threats. A caller said a planted bomb would explode within three hours, while another said a grenade would be thrown into my house," Chaloem said.

The minister infuriated the military Sunday by challenging Gen Sunthon to take legal action against MCOT instead of repeating verbal accusations that the agency was guilty of violating the internal security law. Chaloem's defiant 50-minute statement was broadcast in full by MCOT-run TV Channel 9.

A statement by the Internal Security Command headed by Sunthon said Chalerm "has used TV to broadcast his defiant and aggressive remarks against the military commander who has been trying to be lenient" in dealing with the minister. "Therefore, the three armed forces are obliged to consider appropriate, drastic action" against Chaloem, the statement said. It did not elaborate what action would be taken. [passage omitted]

Destination: Chitlada Palace

BK0711133090 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The government has decided to present the mobile unit to His Majesty the King. Suwit Yotmani, spokesman to the Prime Minister's Office, told reporters:

[Begin recording] [Suwit] Originally, he [the prime minister] said that he would keep the mobile radio truck at the Government House for use by government agencies. He changed his mind this morning. He will bring the mobile truck to present to His Majesty the King. The mobile truck is very modern and is helpful for royal projects. While I am talking to you, the truck has already been sent to the Chitlada Palace.

[Unidentified reporter] It means that the truck is being kept there.
[Suwit] It will be given to the King. His Majesty the King will use it as he deems appropriate. [end recording]

Daily on Mistrust Between Military, Politicians

BK0711052890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Radio Truck Row Just the Tip of the Iceberg"]

[Text] Despite Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's statement that the noisy bickering over the radio truck controversy between Prime Minister's Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung and Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong has been resolved, the conflict appears to have taken a new twist, with the government's stability being put into question.

Just one day after the Internal Peace-keeping Directorate issued a strongly-worded statement, threatening "proper and drastic" measures to deal with Mr Chaloem, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, who earlier had kept his distance from the conflict, yesterday threw his full support behind Gen Sunthon "in all issues concerning national security and military dignity." The army strongman also served notice on the Prime Minister that unless he "right the wrongs" he risked losing the confidence of the military. Since the Thai military as an institution has traditionally been—and still is—an important political force that cannot be ignored, Gen Suchinda's unambiguous message cannot just be taken for granted this time.

Apparently what the military has been implicitly demanding—and so far not succeeding in getting—is a radical Cabinet reshuffle that will project an overall clean image which will help restore public confidence. Any cosmetic changes, which do not involve key Cabinet portfolio currently held by the three major coalition parties, are unlikely to be accepted by the military. Through his political acumen and the raw instinct of political survival, the Prime Minister has, hitherto, succeeded in resisting pressure, particularly from the military, to effect a real Cabinet shake-up. But the sudden turn of events prompted by the fallout from the radio truck controversy will make it even harder for the Prime Minister to resort to the same old delaying tactic, without inviting a possible backlash from the military.

Compounded by a recent Chat Thai Party resolution reaffirming support for Interior Minister Banhan Silpa-acha who is, among others, believed to be targetted in the shake-up, the Prime Minister is left with almost no options. But when the crunch comes—which is expected to be imminent—we hope that the Prime Minister will make the right decision, one that is based on what will best serve the interest of the country and its people. As the first fully-elected civilian administration in more than a decade, the Prime Minister should also demonstrate a democratic spirit by taking the initiative in opening Parliament for an extraordinary session to allow the Opposition to air their dissenting views in a true democratic manner.

As a recognised powerful political force, the military's role is not limited to the traditional defence of the country, but is extended to cover, among others, the promotion of democracy and the protection of the public interest. Unfortunately however, the military's democratically expanded role has been viewed with mistrust by politicians. This is not surprising given past records of coups and coup attempts by the military in days of old.

The controversial radio truck which was bought by the Mass Communications Organisation of Thailand for the purpose of allowing the Government to possess an effective tool to launch a war of the air waves against rebel forces and to jam radio communications in the event of any coup attempt stands testimony to the mistrust of politicians towards the military.

On the other hand, politicians in general are often held in contempt by the military as a bunch of self-serving, corrupt and greedy people. The mutual distrust which appears to be deep-seated does not augur well for the development of democracy in the long run. After all, the radio truck might not have been needed in the first place and the embarrassing feud would have been avoided, had the military and politicians been able to overcome their mutual distrust.

Police Seize 'Hijacked' Thai Rubber Cargo Ship

BK0711011990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Nov 90 p A1

[By Prayut Siwayawirot]

[Text] Hat Yai, Songkhla—Chinese police in Shanghai have confiscated the Singapore-bound ship with a cargo of Thai rubber sheets worth over Bt [Baht] 100 million which was reported missing in Malaysian waters in late September, according to a southern rubber exporter.

Twenty-three of its crewmen, mostly Burmese including the captain identified as Myint Wai, were also arrested and they are now in the custody of the Chinese international police, Sanit Wongphruek said yesterday. He added the crew also included a few Hong Kong residents.

Sanit, who is the managing director of the J.C. Trading Co, said he was informed of the seizure through a long distance call from China by the owner of Thawon Rubber Industry Co, Thawon Ruang-arunwatthana, who left for the country last month to search for the missing vessel. Sanit and Thawon were among the 14 Thai rubber exporters who shipped the 3,500 tonnes of rubber sheets through a local shipping firm. Thawon left for China following a report that the ship was discovered off the coast of China near Shanghai.

The Panamanian-registered Joyce left southern Songkhla province on Sept 28 and headed for Singapore where it had been scheduled to arrive on Oct 1.

Thawon said earlier that he believed the crewmen, in cooperation with Thai shipping firms, had hijacked the ship and taken the rubber products to China, a major importer of Thai rubber sheets which were normally shipped through Singapore.

Sanit told reporters that the Burmese crewmen's names were changed to Malaysian ones. Parts of the vessel were also changed but the rubber sheets had not been unloaded from the ship when it was seized, he said. He said Thawon has asked the Thai Embassy officials in Beijing to negotiate with the Chinese government for the ship and the crewmen to be returned to Thailand. The captain and crewmen will face prosecution in this country, he added.

Sanit said the 14 rubber exporters will meet after Thawon returns from China in a few days to discuss legal action and find out who was behind the suspected hijack. Sanit said he believes the hijacking must have been planned and prepared at least three months in advance.

Chat Thai MP for Songkhla, Nikon Chamnong, yesterday praised Chinese police for the discovery of the ship and the arrest of its crew. Nikon said he would return to Bangkok today and ask Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan to help bring back the ship with its crew members so that they can be prosecuted in Thailand.

Lao Leader Calls for Crackdown on 'Reactionaries'

BK0711023090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Nov 90 p A2

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat yesterday urged Thailand and Laos to cooperate in suppressing illegal cross-border political activities that could harm warming bilateral relations.

The issue was among other topics raised by Souban during his meeting yesterday with his Thai counterpart Amnuai Yotsuk. The Laotian minister called for a plan to stop "Laotian refugees (in border camps in Thailand) from (political) movement which could badly affect the two neighbouring countries and peace and stability in Laos." Laotian leaders have often voiced their concern over remnants of former right-wing Lao reactionaries who have been allegedly carrying out insurgency operations across the border from Thailand.

Both countries agreed in August to set up a joint Thai-Lao patrol unit to suppress the illegal movements. Most of the right wing activists were believed to be ethnic Hmong hilltribe people, many of whom were remnants of those recruited by the CIA during the secret war against the Pathet Lao Communists in the 60s. They were reportedly recruiting their forces from Laotian refugees in camps along the Thai-Laotian border.

In response to the Laotian guest's call, Amnuai strongly denied any Thai involvement in the illegal practices. But he said there might be "cases of (cross-border) robberies, but the incidents were rare." Included in the talks were Laotian requests for Thailand to look into the installation of power transmission lies from Ubon Ratchathani's Pibun Mangsahan to Laotian Seset hydropower dam in southern Saravane Province, and the construction of an embankment along the Mekong River.

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) has signed a contract to purchase power from the Seset dam, which is to be completed next year, and has installed power lines to link with the Laotian grid. Souban said he learnt that the installation has run into some difficulties because part of the project has to go through a forest reserve. Amnuai has pledged to consult EGAT authorities and do what he could to accelerate the project, and to look into the Mekong embankment.

The two ministers met for 30 minutes before chairing the inauguration of the third-round meeting of the joint technical committee to settle the dispute over the 80-square-metre border area between Phitsanulok's Chat Trakan district and Mouang Boten in Laos' Sayaboury province.

USSR Official on Trade Ties With Thailand

BK0711063590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Nov 90 p A3

[Article by Viktor Glaznev, trade representative of the USSR in Thailand, entitled "The USSR-Thailand Future Business Cooperation"]

[Excerpts] Being one of the biggest countries of the Asia-Pacific region, the Soviet Union consistently promotes close cooperation with all the countries in this area.

The changes in the Soviet economy and its foreign economic activities open broad possibilities for bringing the USSR to a new level in the system of international division of labour. The changes in the management of foreign trade relations have created radically new conditions for activities on the Soviet market. [passage omitted]

Thailand is one of the Soviet Union's biggest trade partners in Southeast Asia. Current Soviet exports to Thailand include raw materials—mineral fertilizers (carbamide, potash, etc.), newsprint and chemicals. Soviet foreign trade associations are bringing into Thailand such manufactured commodities as tractors, electric motors, bearings, textile and oxygen generating technology, metal working machine tools, diesel-generators, etc.

Soviet exports of machinery and industrial plant and commercial credits are advanced to Thailand when requested. The Soviet foreign trade associations, exporting manufactured commoditiess, are also prepared to provide services on maintenance, spare parts and operation of the plant, and train local personnel.

Recently two Soviet-made "Voskhod" hydrofoils were employed on a new passenger river-cum-sea route between Bangkok and Phatthaya. These speedy vessels make the trip for tourists more colourful and enjoyable. Year by year Soviet deep-sea trawlers deliver to Thailand more frozen fish. In 1990 their volume is expected to come up to 14,000 tons. The Soviet exports also include hand-tools, steel products, equipment for sugar industry, asbestos, many categories of paper products, synthetic rough stones and some consumer goods.

Among the goods imported by the USSR from Thailand one will find not only traditional items like sugar, tapioca products and rice but also garments, medicines, detergents, soaps, etc. The Thai market becomes more and more attractive for Soviet potential customers.

New impetus for the development of mutual contacts including trade and economic relations was given during the official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of the Soviet prime minister, H.E. Mr. Nikolay I. Ryzhkov in February last. Undoubtedly, all agreements reached during negotiations of both sides will support to expand business relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the USSR.

Trade Between The USSR and Thailand (million US$)

	1988	1989	1990 (9 months)
Turnover	100.6	400.9	151.8
Soviet exports to Thailand	37.8	56.1	59.0
Soviet imports from Thailand	62.8	344.8	92.8
Trade balance (in favour of Thailand)	-25.0	-288.7	-33.8

Notes: Exchange rate: US$1 = 0.64 ruble for 1988 & 1989; US$1 = 0.60 ruble for 1990

Source: The Foreign Trade of the USSR in 1988 and 1989 statistical books

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Cabinet Approves Caltex Oil Refinery Project

BK0711055790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Nov 90 p 17

[Text] Cabinet yesterday gave its final approval for the US oil company Caltex to proceed with its hard-fought US$520-million scheme to build a new oil refinery in Thailand.

It also agreed to a revamped policy for the establishment of new oil refineries that lifts strict government controls over the industry as proposed by the National Energy Policy Commmittee (NEPC) chaired by the Prime Minister. The pre-requisites for Caltex's 120,000-barrels-per-day oil refinery approved by Cabinet yesterday were close to those approved about a month ago by NEPC.

Essentially, Caltex must adopt the shareholding structure and provide certain benefits, including a 350-million-baht bonus to the Government, on the same level as those provided in the agreement to build the nation's fourth oil refinery awareded to the Royal Dutch/Shell group.

The approval for the Caltex project and the change in policy concerning the setting-up of new oil refineries are the result of Caltex's prolonged fight against government energy policy makers, who tried to insist the facility be built in the South—viewed as a non-viable site by the American oil giant. The new ruling allows Caltex to establish the plant at its preferred site on the Eastern Seaboard at Map Ta Phut, Rayong.

Cabinet yesterday instructed Industry Ministry to negotiate and draft an agreement for construction of the refinery based on the proposal submitted earlier by the company. It also authorised the Subcommittee on Petroleum Policy to proceed with its planned announcement inviting investment in new oil refineries in this country. New projects must be based on the same shareholding structure adopted for the Shell scheme, with the processing capacity and location to be decided by the investors themselves.

Vietnam

Sovereignty Over Spratly Islands Reaffirmed

BK0611160090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 6 (AFP)—Vietnam reaffirmed its claim to sovereignty over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Tuesday, after reports of Philippine Air Force maneuvers over the area.

"The Spratlys belong to Vietnam," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He said the Hanoi Government would be willing to negotiate "with all parties concerned about the dispute over the islands."

The island chain, located 400 kilometers (250 miles) southeast of the Vietnamese coast and which may have large oil deposits, is claimed—all or in part—by Vietnam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Military authorities in Manila announced Sunday that Air Force units made runs over the area to determine if they could defend the part of the islands they claim.

They also ordered the upgrading of an airstrip on the island occupied by Philippine troops for the possible deployment of fighter aircraft.

Vietnam, which also claims the Paracel Islands located further north and occupied by China in 1974, clashed with the Chinese Navy over the Spratlys in March 1988. Hanoi has said three Vietnamese were killed and 70 went missing.

Visitors Detained, Fined in Ho Chi Minh City

BK0711024990 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 6 Oct 90 p 1

[By H.M.]

[Text] Between 5 August and 5 September 1990, during checks on compliance with temporary residence regulations by foreign nationals and overseas Vietnamese in Ho Chi Minh City, the public security service fined 45 visiting overseas Vietnamese and 13 foreigners for violations of state regulations on residence. Their offences ranged from not staying at their declared addresses to overstaying their visas. Five other foreign nationals were found to have entered the city illegally; three of them were detained and the other two expelled by public security service.

During the same period the public security service also expelled a visiting overseas Vietnamese for smuggling large amounts of bad cultural products into the city.

Anniversary of October Revolution Celebrated

BK0711043790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Report on 6 November meeting in Hanoi to mark the 73d anniversary of the Soviet Great October Socialist Revolution]

[Summary) "Yesterday evening, 6 November, the Vietnamese Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, the Vietnam Union of Solidarity and Friendship Organizations, the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, and the Hanoi party and people's committees held a solemn meeting to mark the 73d anniversary of the Soviet Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR].

"Attending the meeting were Do Muoi, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Tran Duc Luong, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dang Huu, member of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association; Nghiem Xuan Yem, member of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee Presidium; representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the CPV Central Committee Foreign Relations Department, Ministry of National Defense, the Hanoi party committee, and mass organizations and representatives of people's strata. Also attending the meeting were Comrade Rashit L. Khamidulin, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotientiary to Vietnam; Comrade (Yuri Sukolov), head of the USSR-Vietnam Friendship Association delegation, diplomats of foreign embassies and Soviet specialists ba ed in Vietnam."

Addressing the meeting, Comrade Dang Huu stressed the significance of the historic GOSR, socioeconomic achievements scored by the USSR during the past years, and "Vietnam's profound gratitude to the Soviet fraternal party, government, and people for their support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause during the past several decades." He emphasized that the Vietnam-USSR fraternal friendship and multifaceted cooperations have been strengthened by the Vietnam-USSR Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed on 3 November 1978, and that the Vietnamese Communists and people will do their best to protect and strengthen this pure, noble sentiment. Comrade Dang Huu said:

[Begin Dang Huu recording] "Dear comrades and friends, during the past three years and more, implementing the comprehensive renovation policy set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress, we have scored initial yet very important achievements affirming the nation's great potentials for further advancement in the new stage. The socioeconomic situation has developed remarkably, thereby helping to improve agricultural production, strengthen new economic management mechanism, further improve the people's daily life and restore their confidence in the party leadership and state management, and develop the people's right to democracy. Our country, however, has not resolved the current crisis yet because the attained achievements were minor while arising difficulties are on the increase. We are, however, determined to overcome all difficulties to advance further on the renovation path. More than ever before, the Vietnamese people must strive to enhance the spirit of self-reliance, practice thrift, rebuild the country, release the labor forces, and mobilize all potentials to stabilize the people's daily life and advance along the socialist path. Given the obtained initial results and vast experiences, the Vietnamese people will undoubtedly score ever greater achievements in the renovation cause. The Vietnamese party, state, and people will continue their unswerving foreign policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation with all nations in the world, especially the multifaceted cooperation with the Soviet Union—the principled policy of our party and state—and the profound international sentiment of the Vietnamese people. As close friends of the fraternal Soviet people, the Vietnamese people share weal and woe with them on their achievements as well as on their difficulties.

"On the occasion of this great anniversary, all Vietnamese people turn their minds toward the Soviet land. We are convinced that the Soviet people, who have ample initiatives and a high revolutionary spirit, will bring into full play the glorious GOSR tradition and be able to overcome all difficulties and ordeals, thereby advancing further on the socialist path." [applause] [end recording]

In his speech at the meeting, Comrade (Yuri Sukolov) said:

[Begin (Sukolov) recording in Russian fading into Vietnamese translation] This year, the Soviet and Vietnamese peoples commemorated many major anniversaries. These include the 120th birth anniversary of Lenin, the centenary of President Ho Chi Minh's birth, the 60th founding anniversary of the CPV, the 45th anniversary of the Vietnam August Revolution, and the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association. These are events manifesting our very close relationship during the past several decades. Today, we again commemorate the 73d anniversary of the GOSR, the greatest historic event of the 20th Century which has had a great impact on many nations. At present, the CPSU is making its utmost efforts to strengthen unity at home and abroad and carry out profound changes in the Soviet society. The restructuring policy set forth by the CPSU will uphold the key tasks of Communists and basic values of socialism. It is believed that this policy will bring about a new powerful strength and remarkable progress to socialism. [end recording]

At the end of his speech, Comrade (Yuri Sukolov) once again hailed the long-lasting friendship and cooperation between the two peoples.

The solemn meeting was concluded in an atmosphere of warm friendship and cooperation between the fraternal Vietnamese-Soviet peoples.

Leaders Send Message to Counterparts

BK0711110890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Our party and state leaders have sent greetings to their Soviet counterparts on the occasion of the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The message reads:

On the occasion of the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, we would like to extend our warmest greetings to you comrades—the Communists—and the entire fraternal people of the Soviet Union.

The success of the October Revolution gave birth to the first socialist state, marking the greatest event in the 20th century, and ushered in a new era in the history of mankind. This is the era the proletariat have risen up to become masters their own destiny and all nations throughout the world have struggled for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Over the past 73 years under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union founded by Lenin, the Soviet people have overcome numerous difficulties and ordeals to firmly defend all the achievements of the October Revolution in the Soviet Union, thereby contributing voluminously to the cause of world peace and revolution.

The achievements of historical and epochal significance recorded by the Soviet people and the whole of progressive mankind have affirmed the vigorous vitality of the socialist ideal and that of the October Revolution.

Advancing along the path of the October Revolution, the Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh, have creatively applied Marxist-Leninist doctrines to the specific conditions in Vietnam, thus advancing the Vietnamese revolution to its present success.

The Vietnamese people profoundly understand that the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese revolution in national construction and defense are inseparable from the great, valuable, and effective support and assistance of the Soviet Union. The Vietnamese people will remain always grateful to the Communist Party, the State, and the fraternal people of the Soviet Union for that lofty internationalist attachment.

Today, the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries are entering a new stage of development for the interests of the two peoples and for peace and progress in Asia and the world as a whole. Solidarity and multifaceted cooperation with the Soviet Union will forever remain a principle of the Vietnamese Communist Party and State.

As close friends of the Soviet people, the Vietnamese people firmly believe that by promoting the glorious tradition of the October Revolution, the Soviet people will overcome all difficulties and will continue advancing their country on the path of socialism.

May the fraternal friendship and multifaceted cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union be constantly consolidated and developed.

Soviets Greeted

BK0611165790 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 6—The Vietnamese party and state leaders today extended greetings to their Soviet counterparts on the occasion of the 73d anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution (Nov.7).

The message was jointly signed by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, State Council president; Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly; and addressed to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and president of the USSR; N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and A. Lukyanov, president of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Acclaiming the great achievements made by the Soviet people over the past 73 years, the message stresses: "the achievements of historical and epochal significance made by the Soviet people and the whole progressive mankind have affirmed the vigorous vitality of the socialist ideal and of the October revolution." The message continues: "Today, the friendship and cooperation between our two countries enter a new stage of development for the interests of the two peoples, for peace and progress in Asia and the world as a whole. Solidarity and multifaceted cooperation with the Soviet Union forever remain a principled line of the Vietnamese Communist Party and State."

The message expresses firm belief that promoting the glorious tradition of the October Revolution, the Soviet people will overcome all difficulties and continue to take their country towards socialism.

Vietnamese-Lao Relations, Friendship Hailed

BK0711093490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[NHAN DAN 2 November unattributed article: "Profound Love Between Vietnam and Laos"]

[Summary] Vientiane, the capital of Laos, which lies along the bank of the Mekong River has beautiful scenery and modern buildings. Many foreign tourists find the city peaceful while Vietnamese residents there enjoy their daily life and maintain very close relations with the fraternal Lao people.

Visiting the river port of Tha Dua, some four kilometers from Vientiane, we saw Vietnamese and Lao workers working closely at the various boatyards. "During the past 10 years, the Vietnamese ship building engineering sector has helped the Lao Riverine Transport Corporation No.1 build three barges and 56 boats—among them, six with 100-140 tonnes capacity, four passenger vessels, and two tourist boats. It has also helped Laos train a group of ship builders, skippers, technicians, and port cadres. As a result, the Lao ship building sector has progressed remarkably."

At a Lao timber processing factory, we were introduced to modern equipment imported from Japan and Taiwan and briefed about the achievements of the factory in the previous years.

We also visited a cemetery in Champassak Province to pay homage to Vietnamese soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the independence and freedom of the two countries. Vietnamese residents in this province have very close relations with their fraternal Lao people. They have actively participated in all anniversaries and festivals organized by the Lao authorities.

Generally speaking, Vietnamese residents in Laos have always done their best to uphold the fine tradition of the Lao people. They have also shown their gratitude to the Lao party, state, and people for their support and assistance to the Vietnamese community in the country.

Chairmen Receive Outgoing Burmese Ambassador

BK0711092490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly on 6 November received Aye Cho, ambassador of Myanmar [Burma] to Vietnam who came to bid farewell at the end of his mission. Chairman Le Quang Dao talked cordially to Ambassador Aye Cho. On the same day, Council of Ministers Chairman Do Muoi also received and held cordial talks with the Myanmar ambassador.

People's Council Outlines Socioeconomic Tasks

BK0511100490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] During the meeting of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Council on 2 and 3 November, delegates heard a report on the socioeconomic situation over the past nine months.

The report said: Over the past nine months, the industrial, small industrial, and handicraft sectors of Ho Chi Minh City increased their output by 7.4 percent over the corresponding period last year, fulfilling 64 percent of their annual plan. The centrally-managed industries based in the city performed better than previously, owing to the acquisition of more modern equipment and technologies. The self-procured capital of these industries met about 60-70 percent of their financial needs. Concerning the local state-operated enterprises, the city's People's Committee instructed various services in charge to work together with the financial sector to look into production establishments' demands for capital and suggested that loans be granted to 60 units to supplement their liquid assets. The Industrial and Commercial Bank has lent more than 14 billion dong to 21 units. Trading and import-export activities are also being reorganized and renovated to suit the new situation.

At the meeting, the city's People's Council set forth the central tasks for the last quarter and made preparations for the 1991 plan. In the immediate future, to promote economic development the city will reorganize production in the state-operated sector, classify and appraise the performance of strong establishnments and products for further development, and resolutely dissolve those production and trading units that have been chronically in the red. The city will enforce the policy of encouraging development of the nonstate economic sector, intensify inspection of and punishment of fraudulent establishments, concentrate on making in-depth investments, renovate equipment, and turn out quality products capable of competing with foreign-made goods. The city will actively strive to clear all goods backlogs, promote fast capital turnaround to finance production, and step up the struggle against smuggling and corruption in the managerial apparatuses of all sectors at all levels.

War Veterans Association of Hanoi Set Up

BK0611120590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The War Veterans Association of Hanoi was set up recently, Nguyen Duc Hieu reported. The association promptly rallied those who once fought on the frontline against foreign aggression. With a membership of 30,000, the association is an active member of the Fatherland Front.

In the struggle against corruption and for party purification, the association has worked out a concrete plan that is placed under the strict leadership of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee. It will cooperate with other mass organizations of the front to promote well-coordinated joint actions, thereby creating a strong anticorruption spirit among the people. The association's plan has been disseminated to every subward and village chapters and every member. The association is also holding ward-level congresses, beginning with Dong Da Ward, where a well-developed mass movement has been launched to effectively participate in maintaining public order and security and implementing army welfare policies in the capital.

Debate on Army Depoliticization, Part One

BK0611092890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Part 1 of article by Le Quang in November 1990 issue of TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN on the "true nature" of the so-called depoliticization of the Army]

[Text] First of all, a simple question must be raised. When expressing the concept of depoliticization of the Army, did the authors of that concept have adequate knowledge and proper methods of presentation?

As far as knowledge and methods of presentation are concerned, there is obviously no ground for doubt because all of these authors are individuals of commanding stature who hardly lack either adequate knowledge or proper methods of presentation. This will be helpful for our in-depth study of the true nature and the political motives behind the concept of depoliticization of the Army.

Not long ago, a politician gave his frank opinion when asked questions on the issue under discussion here. He maintained that Marx's genius lay in his formulation of the doctrine of class struggle. However, in the politician's opinion, the time has come for people to renounce that doctrine.

The renunciation of the doctrine of class struggle expounded in Marxism-Leninism is probably the breeding ground for a variety of rightist concepts, including the concept of depoliticization of the Army.

The realities of the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat worldwide have indicated that the proletariat cannot fulfill its historic mission unless it is armed with a spiritual weapon (Marxism-Leninism), is capable of mustering large segments of the laboring people, possesses a vanguard brigade (a genuine communist party), and has an effective tool (the state mechanism) with the Army playing a special role.

Thus, as far as the socialist countries are concerned, the depoliticization of the Army is part and parcel of the desire to separate the Army from the proletarian ideological system and the political activities of the proletariat in its capacity as the ruling class in society, to deprive the Communist Party of its leadership over the Army, and to isolate the Army from the socialist state system.

Therefore, attempts to depoliticize the Army are nothing but efforts to deprive the Army of its proletarian character and to gradually separate it from the revolutionary cause and then turn it into a bourgeoisie-backed military organization.

People sceptical about the concept of depoliticization of the Army also raise another question: Why must the Army be depoliticized?

No one can deny the great role that the Army has played in the proletariat's class struggle and in the fight to seize and maintain power as well as to secure conditions for the people's peaceful labor. It is certain that if that effective tool had not existed, the enemies from within and without would have smashed the revolution.

Another issue of more important significance is whether or not the Communist Party should strengthen its leadership over the entire society and the socialist state.

If confrontations between countries belonging to different sociopolitical systems no long exist, conflicts and contradictions will disappear, hostile forces will cease to exist, and contradictions between the various peoples and nations will be resolved. Then, the Communist Parties should cease their activities and the armies should be dissolved instead of being depoliticized.

However, this is not so. The above-mentioned hypotheses are at variance with reality. They are but pictures drawn by opportunistic and rightist elements. Whatever colors they may make their pictures, they cannot truly reflect the facts of life, for no matter how good-hearted and compassionate the various state leaders may be, they cannot help eliminate the political and class boundaries dividing nations belonging to different sociopolitical systems.

Statements about piecemeal reforms cannot liquidate in reality the contradictions between the working class and laboring people on the one side and the bourgeoisie on the other side, or those between imperialist and dependent nations. In fact, a fierce class struggle is taking place in the modern world, although this struggle is influenced by the characteristics of our time and by the new development of the economic, political, and social situation.

Recently, a confrontation between socialism and hostile forces arose and is still continuing. Many people, however, still want to sweep under the carpet the highly complex and bitter reality of the struggle and intend to promote dialogue as a substitute for the class struggle doctrine. The motives of and political methods used by various forces in the settlement of some important issues have revealed their penchant for unprincipled compromise as well as their competition with each other and their attempts to take advantage of each other to gain control over countries. In reality, it is not because they have followed the logic of action of the rightist opportunists that the armies of the socialist countries have lost the object of their combat in performing their internal and external functions.

The Army must absolutely be a tool of the working class, the laboring people, and the socialist state. It is necessary to oppose the ambition of turning the Army into a tool of an individual or a group of people, because these people themselves do not stay away from politics and nurture very obvious political designs. The call for depoliticizing the Army has laid bare the ambition of some individuals or groups of people to seize control of the Army. To realize this ambition, first of all they must attack the Communist Party's leadership over the Army, causing the loss of the class political orientation and deviation from the principle of building the Army politically. Proceeding from this, they will gradually cause the revolutionary Army to change its character and become a bourgeois-style professional army that is alien to the nature of an army of the people and for the people.

In reality, an individual or a group of people never stay outside politics and above classes, even if they are not members of any party. In the veins of the people who are loudly chanting the Army depoliticization slogan runs potent political blood. For this reason, we can conclude that the viewpoint of Army depoliticization is sheer hypocrisy, a dangerous political fraud that has caused and will continue to cause losses to the revolution and the people.

On the other hand, to have a more incisive insight into the viewpoint of Army deploliticization we must make a comprehensive analysis of the history of the Army's development. At present, genuine Communists still have a firm belief in the revolutionary and scientific viewpoints of the founders of Communism on the class nature of the Army. Marx, Engels, and Lenin were the first to prove that the appearance of the Army is closely associated with the appearance of socioeconomic inequalities among human beings. The birth of the Army is organically related to the appearance of the state. The Army is born shot through with politics, as a tool of a class should be. In other words, the Army is politics.

Four models of army are recorded in history, each suited to a specific model of state: the armies of the slave-owning state, the feudal state, the bourgeois state, and the socialist state. Owing to the characteristic of the evolutionary process, a special model of army has emerged in the developing countries. The sociopolitical content is the principle basis for distinguishing the armies of the states and societies where class antagonism exists from those of the socialist states. For a long time now, bourgeois theoreticians have held unscientific views of the army. They contend that the army is an organization standing above class and outside politics, that the sociopolitical content and use of the army have nothing to do with the relationship between the ruler and the ruled in the political field.

The history of army development, however, has rejected these unscientific viewpoints. In reality, the army essentially and always reflects the interests of a specific class. On this basis, it will perform its internal and external functions. At present, bourgeois scholars are also working overtime to hatch numerous ambiguous theories with the ambition of proving the correctness of the illogical in order to hoodwink people. They have striven to polish the bourgeois army as a force originating from the people to prove that it is politically neutral and not affiliated with any parties. Whatever its form may be, however, the antipeople nature of the bourgeois army and its relations with the ruling political party have never changed. It is hard to understand why some people have still deliberately ignored the deceptiveness of the bourgeois theory of the relationship between the army and politics and have hastily and naively applied it to the armies of the socialist states. Is it true that army depoliticization is a theoretical development in the building of a new-style army? Obviously, there is here a blending and intermingling of the bourgeois viewpoints with those of the rightist opportunists in the Communist Parties.

General Pays Visits to 1st, 2d Military Regions

BK0611122090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Last week, General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chief of the Vietnam People's Army General Staff, paid working visits to a number of localities and units in the 1st and 2d Military Regions. The chief of the General Staff heard reports by various units on the building of their forces, their training, and their combat readiness. He also inspected some units where cadres had overcome difficulties and obtained good results in building and training.

Ho Chi Minh City Organization Reviews Tasks

BK0411131790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Nov 90

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City party organization's executive committee held its 14th enlarged conference recently to review the socioeconomic situation of the city during the past nine months. Since the beginning of the third quarter, production has been restored and developed satisfactorily. The four major campaigns—which are aimed at curbing smuggling and corruption, opposing wastefulness, respecting the people's right to mastery, and eliminating inconvenience to the people—have been carried out extensively throughout the city.

The conference, however, noted the prevailing poor sense of responsibility among the leading cadres, ineffective control and implementation of work, and poor management of state activities. The conference expressed the hope that these shortcomings and weaknesses will be positively overcome soon.

Campaign Launched To Boost Renovation Process

BK0311033290 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] The Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front has launched a campaign among the people of all strata to bring into play the tradition of solidarity in order to boost the process of renovation as well as national construction and defense. The campaign is in response to the (?30th) anniversary of the founding of the United National Front, now the Vietnam Fatherland Front, 18 November. The campaign urges the front committees at different levels and people from all walks of life to implement the line and policies of the party and state as well as to safeguard and strengthen the revolutionary gains. It is also aimed at stepping up the process of renovation, stabilizing social, economic, and political situation, and bringing the country forward.

U.S. Pilot's Rescue, Meeting With Ho Recalled

BK0511055690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 4 Nov 90

["Article" by Vu Ky]

[Text] During our stay in Tan Trao, the parachuting of Uncle Ho's American friends right into the headquarters of the revolution caused a big stir in the entire area and left an indelible mark on Vietnamese-U.S. relations.

It was around October 1944. A U.S. Air Force lieutenant named (Shaw) was shot down over our guerrilla-controlled zone in De Tham Village, Hoa An District, Cao Bang Province, during a mission against Japanese troops in North Vietnam. Uncle Ho, still at Pac Bo at the time, ordered that the American be looked after well and brought to see him. The distance between the spot where the American pilot landed and Uncle Ho's residence was only slightly over 60 km as the crow flies. To the American flier, however, it represented quite an arduous long march. Japanese troops spread a tight net to block all exits and conducted sweeps over a vast area, determined to capture the allied pilot alive at all costs. We had to hide the American deep in the mountains for a while before continuing the trek through the jungle, abandoning the mountain trails.

The first leg of the journey from the base of Khau Dam Mountain near Ban Ngan to Hao Lich was just over 10 km as the crow flies, but it took us a whole night to cover it. Comrade Bang Giang was the cadre entrusted with the duty of taking the pilot to see Uncle Ho. Accompanied by Comrade Tuan Son, who was in charge of the armed unit of Hoa An District, Bang Giang could see that the guest was taking it all very badly. Leaning on a stick, his face distorted with pain, the American was limping along, at times sobbing loudly like a child. Perhaps he was dazed and shaken with worries, not quite sure into the hands of which forces he had fallen. Was he safe? Would he ever see his country and family again? The irony was that those who at Uncle Ho's behest were trying their best to prevent him from being captured and killed could do nothing to reassure him because of the language barrier. Their yelling and shouting, which alternated with gesticulations, only frightened their guest further.

It was not until Comrade Bang Giang bought him a pair of canvas-sole slippers, the type popular in mountain regions, to help alleviate his pain of walking barefoot was he temporarily convinced that he had indeed bumped into good people. Later on, only when he was treated by the local people to a meal of chicken and sticky rice cooked with beans did the American flier believe for sure that he had in fact been rescued. The meal of chicken itself was a fairly interesting story in its own right. At first, the guest could not eat the chicken because it was cooked in Cao Bang style, with a lot a ginger added. Comrade Bang Giang promptly ordered a second bird killed, fried, and served with salt. This time, the guest ate his meal with great gusto.

For 22 days and nights, the American guest was taken through jungle trails in the guerrilla-controlled area. In many places, we organized meetings and rallies to give the pilot a warm reception, creating in him the impression that the base area of the anti-Japanese resistance under the Viet Minh leadership was very large and that the revolutionary movement was very strong.

Near Pac Bo, the guest was led over a tortuous path for a fairly long time before we reached the cave's entrance. Ms. Nong Thi Trung came to meet us and led us into the cave to see Uncle Ho. Having the opportunity to see Uncle Ho and to hear the sound of his native language after nearly a month of living as if he were deaf and dumb, the American pilot was overwhelmed by amazement and joy, so much so that he begun to weep. He was dumbfounded, unable to figure out how an old man clad in such simple attire could speak English so fluently. He was even more surprised when he learned that the old man had visited the United States before the pilot was born.

At last, the pilot boldly suggested that Uncle Ho send him to Kunming, China, where the 14th U.S. Air Force was stationed. Uncle Ho agreed. In fact, he had intended to visit Kunming to do some necessary work for the revolution.

In mid-April 1945, when Uncle Ho left for Vietnam, the United States appointed two Chinese-born Americans named (Thal) and (MacSheen) to accompany him. Two U.S. Air Force L-5 aircraft flew Uncle Ho, the two Americans, and a number of our cadres to an airfield near the border. From there, the Americans walked with Uncle Ho to Pac Bo, then to Tan Trao. After spending some time studying the matter and making preparations, on 9 June 1945, from Tan Trao Uncle Ho sent a letter written in English to (Finn), the man appointed by the American side to keep in touch with Uncle Ho during his stay in Kunming.

The letter read: Dear Mr. (Finn): Mr. T and his aide—meaning the two Americans in the advance party—are doing fine. We have became a great family. I am looking forward to your visit soon. Please give this letter to my friend (Sun Mingpang) at the Indochina coffeeshop. Some 10 or 12 days later they will hand over to you a box containing the flags of the allied countries. I would appreciate it very much if you could send that box to me by the fastest means possible. Please convey my regards to the Great Old Man—meaning General Chennault—Mr. (Bernard), and all our friends. I wish you good health and good luck.

Sincerely yours, Ho

More on Goodwill Ambassador Visit

BK0311123490 Hanoi VNA in English 0732 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.3—A press conference was convened here this morning by the Office of the United Nations' Children Fund (UNICEF) in Hanoi on the occasion of a current visit to Vietnam by Ms Audrey Hepburn, UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

Following the introduction by Mr. Tarique Farooqui, UNICEF representative here, Ms Hepburn addressed the press conference. She expressed her sympathy with the Vietnamese children in their situation, which she noted, is still so hard that it takes lives of a number of children in the country every year and may lead to the reduced rate of literacy.

However, she said she was joyful at the fine results of the government's projects with assistance from UNICEF in the interests of the child such as the expanded programme for immunization that has made 80 percent of children vaccinated against six child's major killers, the basic education universalization with diversified forms of education, and water sanitation efforts to help ensure safe water for children.

The UNICEF goodwill ambassador also promised to make more efforts to raise funds for the Vietnamese children to help them overcome their hardship and difficulties and live a happy life.

A film star and academy award winner, Ms Audrey Hepburn was named UNICEF special ambassador in March 1988, and then goodwill ambassador in 1989. Her current Vietnam visit is made at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government.

Country Explores Various Cooperation Venues

BK0711105490 Hanoi VNA in English 0736 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 7—A delegation of the General Department of Tourism of Cambodia led by its vice director general Sam Promonea has arrived here for a working visit to Vietnam.

The delegation had working sessions with Vu Khan Liem, deputy minister of culture, information, sports and tourism, and Nguyen Quyen Sinh, director general of the Vietnam General Department of Tourism. The two sides exchanged views on the promotion of tourism cooperation between the two countries.

Director of the Vietnam Postage Stamps Company (COTEVINA) Nguyen Trung and Director of the Cuba Postal Stamps Company (COPREFIL) Antonic Guerra have recently reached in Havana an agreement on the production and sale of postage stamps between the two countries for the coming years.

Paper Examines Emergence of Criticism of History

BK0311070990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Article by Phan Lang in "recent" issue of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Historical Criticism Is Very Necessary But How Should It Be Done?"]

[Text] As far as the ideological world is concerned, there has emerged here and there an argument worth discussing. During World War II, mankind had to pay a very dear price. Tens of millions of people have died and their sacrifices have saved several billion of their fellowmen from the disaster of fascism. That is the truth. Nonetheless, that victory of the century has now come under attack from a number of people under the pretext of historical criticism.

In our country, some individuals—just a handful of people—have also adopted a similar tune. They said that the countless sacrifices our people have made during the two wars of resistance against the arch-imperialists were unnecessary and that if we had waited for an opportunity instead of making sacrifices, not a single drop of blood would have been shed in Vietnam and the imperialists would have been compelled to grant us independence as well.

Being under fire, the authors of the aforementioned argument fought back by claiming that other people did not respect their right to express their opinion.

In a reply to his daughter, Marx stressed that a comprehensive judgement would be the best guiding principle to follow. This is an accurate remark. As far as the topic of this discussion is concerned, a failure to conduct a comprehensive criticism of history—the past as a whole—will certainly prevent people from gaining better knowledge.

It is our policy to effect renovation. This means that we have made use of criticism as a weapon. Yet, the problem is this: What does it mean by criticism and how should it be done?

Some people have missed as much as half of the meaning of the term criticism. In the name of criticism, they have completely rejected history and deliberately turned a blind eye to the fact that criticism does not necessarily mean negation. Let's take an example. Readers can comment on this article by saying that it is either very poor or acceptable. This means that their criticism covers strong points as well as shortcomings. Thus, it can be said that criticism includes both negative and positive remarks and that this kind of judgment will help people acquire new knowledge.

That was precisely how Marx made use of the spiritual legacies obtained by his predecessors in philosophy, economics, and sociology and then worked toward formulating his own doctrine. This does not necessarily mean that one should make a blanket conclusion that every issue contains the same number of correct or incorrect points. No, that is not true. Certain issues are basically correct or vice versa.

As far as historical evolution is concerned, each development stage has its own ups and downs. Some pages of history may record negative phenomenon. As examples, one can cite the time under Le Chieu Thong, which must definitely be termed as full of negativism. As for the brilliant achievements under Tran Hung Dao and Nguyen Trai, who have been admired by the world peoples as among the greatest and most outstanding personalities, they must be termed as positive and not otherwise. Of course, no matter how eminent they can be, people of all times—in the past, at present, and in the future—can in no way attain absolute perfection, which is inaccessible to mankind.

Therefore, when using modern knowledge to shed light on the merits and achievements by their fathers and forefathers, succeeding generations have both the right and duty to point out areas that need further improvement.

Evaluating the period under great Emperor Le Thanh Tong of the Le Dynasty, which marks one the highest development stages of feudalism in our country, the Complete Historical Record of Great Viet made a negative remark as follows: The drawbacks lie in the fact that the afforestation development program was far beyond the preset norms and that there was a serious lack of mutual love between brothers and sisters. As for the rest of the emperor's performance, this famous history book made the following eloquent remark: During his 38-year reign, the king established a very civilized social system. He was indeed a hero and a talented king. Even Wu Ti of the Han Dynasty and Tzai Tung of the Tang Dynasty could not surpass him.

We also do not reject the truth that due to the limited knowledge of people at that time, certain historical events of particular importance have been evaluated inaccurately for long periods of time. Therefore, it is necessary for today's generation to review those events. For 10 centuries now, Queen Mother Duong Van Nga has been regarded as an adulteress because of her decision to marry and give the throne to Le Hoang. With modern knowledge, we need to make clarifications and ascertain that she was indeed a Vietnamese patriot. That is how we interpret the meaning of historical criticism.

Now let's deal with the two wars of resistance. By 1914, 84 percent of land in the entire world was under the control of just a few imperialist countries. Following the end of World War II, the need for national independence has become a trend in the development of history. As far as social activities are concerned, no matter how strong it may be, a movement must rely on man's actions in order to make its objectives come true. Obviously, if nations like Vietnam had not been selected by history to be the beachheads for mounting attacks, there would not have been such things as the colonialist forces agreeing to back down and let their colonial system disintegrate.

It is true that a number of colonial countries have regained national independence without having to pay such a very high price as we did. Nonetheless, as affirmed by many historians worldwide, this event did not happen until after Vietnam had defeated two arch-imperialist countries. At present, workers in the capitalist countries are entitled to an eight-hour work day system. Nevertheless, this does not mean that they believe that the bloody struggle waged by their predecessors on 1 May 1886 was unnecessary. The same thing is true with nations that have regained independence in subsequent years. They have all highly valued Vietnam's pace-setting struggle.

Even politicians in the imperialist countries have been fully aware of this fact. For example, Sainteny wrote: Vietnam has planted a cross on the tombs of both French and Western colonialism. As for scholars in the United States, they affirmed: Vietnam's struggle is an enlightenment for many people because it has awakened the entire U.S. conscience and freed U.S. ruling circles from the disillusionment about their having inconceivable strength. As a result, during the post-Vietnam era, they have been compelled to adopt a more reasonable attitude. This struggle has also enlightened and encouraged various nations to discover their own great strength and to bravely rise up to oppose U.S. imperialism worldwide.

We have to mention again facts already known to many readers simply because we want to demonstrate one thing: The fact that a number of people have rejected the fruit of the two wars of resistance for national independence and the common struggle for national liberation has not only filled us, the insiders, with justifiable indignation, but has also insulted many personalities worldwide who have maintained an objective attitude toward our people's just struggle.

A French proverb goes like this: With the word if, one can put the whole of Paris in a bottle. At present and in the future, the course of the development of events could follow different directions. History involves facts that have actually happened. Therefore, when using the term if, one must follow a very scientific and objective method of reasoning based on historical facts.

Thus, we have seen people trying to reject the past using the conditional term if. Why didn't they argue like this: If our people had not carried out or failed in the two wars of resistance against the colonialists and the imperialists, who dares to guarantee that history would have followed a different course of development, that Vietnam would not have become another Palestine or worse than that, and that there would have been nothing left, including those who are turning their weapons against the past?

Australia

Mediator Secures Release of Two Hostages

BK0711094990 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The Australian poet, Mrs. Anne Fairborn, who has helped secure the release of two Australian hostages in Iraq, said she was making further approaches to the government in Baghdad. Radio Australia's Greg Wildsmith reports from Baghdad Mrs. Fairborn will be leaving Iraq at the end of the week with the two Australians, Mr. James Strong and Mr. Graham Wright.

[Begin Wildsmith recording] Both men were elected for Iraqi exit permits because they are older than 55. Mrs. Fairborn says there is another Australian in Kuwait who meets the Iraqi criteria of old age, and she will press the government to allow him to leave as well. [Words indistinct] Australian residents have been held at Iraqi strategic sites. Mrs. Fairborn says she will ask members of Parliament to arrange for those men (?to leave) Baghdad [words indistinct] foreigners enjoy relative freedom. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Gareth Evans says the government will not be discouraging further private missions to Iraq. However, he says the policy of not encouraging and not officially sponsoring missions will remain. Senator Evans said the government was delighted at the two Australians' being released as the result of Mrs. Fairborn's efforts, but he warned that the releases may prolong the agony of the great majority of hostages who were left behind. He reiterated the government's view that selective releases gave a propaganda advantage to Iraq and put people's minds off the enormity of the crime of holding any hostages.

Air Force Operation With New Zealand Announced

BK0311051590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Canberra, Nov 2 (AFP)—The Australian and New Zealand Air Forces will carry out joint operations over the Tasman Sea for the next five months to enforce a ban on driftnet fishing, it was announced Friday.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said in a statement here: "The surveillance flights are further indication of Australia's commitment to rid the South Pacific of driftnetting fleets."

The programme of flights by P-3 Orion aircraft will last until the end of March and will be carried out in coordination with the fisheries agency of the 15-nation South Pacific Forum.

Heads of government agreed at the forum's annual meeting in 1989 to ban drift nets—fine-mesh nylon nets dubbed "walls of death" because they scoop up all forms of marine life across a path up to 50 kilometres (35 miles) broad.

The flights will provide forum members "with important data on the frequency and range of driftnetting activities," Mr. Hawke said.

Japan, the main driftnet user, has agreed to abide by a U.N. resolution calling for a ban in the South Pacific.

Fiji

Soldiers Plead Guilty to Abduction of Lecturer

BK0711092190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0757 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Suva, Nov 7 (AFP)—Five Fijian soldiers pleaded guilty Wednesday to abducting and assaulting a Hindu university lecturer who had organised a public protest burning of the country's racially slanted Constitution. The court was told their victim, Anirudh Singh, an ethnic Indian, is now recovering in hospital after being beaten and tortured on October 24.

The defence said that the actions of the accused, "although illegal were in accordance with traditional Fijian custom and traditions."

Chief magistrate Apaitia Seru postponed until November 20 sentencing Captain Sotia Ponjiase, Lance-Corporal Samuela Keni, Lance-Cpl Wate Qalo, Corporal Waqa Vakaloloma and Cpl Iliesa Raiqiso. All five are ethnic Fijian regulars in the Fiji military forces.

The Suva magistrates court was packed with members of the extremist Soqosoqo-i-Taukei movement, which on Tuesday warned opponents of the military-backed government against protesting about the Constitution.

The court was told the soldiers were angered when participants at a religious ceremony here on October 18 burned a copy of the document in a trash can in protest at its discrimination in favour of Fiji's indigenous Melanesians.

The prosecution alleged the four non-commissioned officers had asked Captain Ponjiase to help them abduct Mr. Singh, a senior physics lecturer at the University of the South Pacific.

Prosecuting Counsel John Semisi said Mr. Singh, who had organised the ceremony, was overpowered and forced into a car outside his home on October 24. He was taken blindfolded to a forest on the outskirts of Suva where he was questioned about the Constitution burning. He was bound, repeatedly punched and his hands stamped on by the men's boots during the interrogation, Mr. Semisi said.

Capt. Ponjiase had once served in the British army's elite Special Air Service, the court was told.

Defence lawyer Vijaya Parmanandam said the accused felt that the acts by Dr. Singh's group against racial discrimination were a direct insult to the president, prime minister and Fiji's chiefs and people. The accused had since expressed remorse over their actions and now knew that two wrongs don't make a right, Mr. Parmanandam said. He appealed for leniency for the five, who were described by a senior army officer, Major Sakiusa Raivoce, as having "an impeccable and impressive record in the service".

Mr. Parmanandam asked that the soldiers, who were personally handed over to the police by the army commander, Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, be given suspended jail terms. He said other more serious cases in the aftermath of the racially-motivated 1987 coups led by Maj. Gen. Rabuka against the country's first Indian-dominated government, like the illegal smuggling of arms by ethnic Indian dissidents, received similar sentences.

Seven Hindus, including Dr. Singh and three fellow lecturers, are expected to face charges of sedition in relation to the burning of the Constitution in court next week.

Meanwhile Taukei, the movement that stirred up protests and demonstrations leading to the downfall of the government in 1987, warned Wednesday against any further attempts to burn copies of the Constitution. "People should realise that tension was still high in the country and every attempt should be made to prevent anything happending which would have a flow-on effect," Taukei spokesman Apenisa Seduadua said.

New Caledonia

Incumbent Reelected Head of Proindependence Party

BK0411112590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Kone, New Caledonia Nov 4 (AFP)—Francois Burck was Sunday re-elected president of the Union Caledonienne (UC) which champions independence for the French South Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Some 600 UC delegates to the party's 21st congress meeting here since Wednesday also named Richard Kaloi first vice-president to replace Leopold Joredie who became second vice-president, party officials said.

Two motions passed at the meeting called for increased efforts to bring about "viable economic independence" and to step up the transformation of the island from a "subsistence economy to a market economy."

The congress of the UC, the main component of the pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), reaffirmed that the party's aim remained "decolonisation and independence," fixing its executive meeting for January.

New Zealand

Former Premier To Make Hostage Release Bid

BK0411091490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Wellington, Nov 4 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister David Lange is to visit Iraq to plead for the release of New Zealand hostages held captive since the invasion of Kuwait. Prime Minister Jim Bolger announced the visit in a statement Sunday, saying Mr. Lange was going to Iraq as a representative of the families of the New Zealand hostages.

Mr. Bolger said the trip was a private initiative and the government's attempts to gain the release of the hostages would continue to be made through diplomatic representation by New Zealand's ambassador in Baghdad. "In conjunction with other ambassadors, he is pressing strenuously for the release of the hostages," Mr. Bolger said.

The statement did not say when Mr. Lange was going. Radio New Zealand reported that no date had been set.

There are 17 New Zealand nationals held in Iraq and Kuwait. All of them are men.

The attitude of the new government is the same as that of the previous government—that attempts to free the hostages should be part of a multi-national approach.

Until the Labour government was defeated in the October 27 general election, Mr. Lange had been the country's attorney-general. He retained his seat in parliament and is now an opposition MP.

As prime minister, Mr. Lange led Labour to power in 1984 and to victory in the election of 1987. He resigned last year following a long-running battle with former Finance Minister Roger Douglas over the direction of the government's economic policy.

Mr. Bolger said in an interview Sunday with the New Zealand Press Association that he did not consider the trip a breach of international solidarity. He said a number of people from other countries had visited Iraq to plead for the release of hostages.

"The former government has done everything possible through the diplomatic options they have," he said. "Our ambassador over there and his staff have been working extraordinarily hard to try and persuade the Iraqis that New Zealanders should be released but thus far we have not been successful."

The prime minister said government funding would not be provided. He did not know how Mr. Lange's trip would be financed. "This is a different approach. It's had some success for other countries so hopefully it will have some success for New Zealand," he said.

Island State Said Tricked Into Signing Treaty

BK0411060690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0343 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Wellington, Nov 4 (AFP)—The New Zealand Government has been accused of tricking the remote Pacific island state of Tokelau into signing away a quarter of its territory, according to a report published here Sunday.

Tokelau, a New Zealand dependency about 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles) northeast of Wellington, is comprised of three tiny atolls—Fakaofo, Atafu and Nukunonu.

In 1980 a fourth atoll, Swains, was relinquished to the United States in a treaty aimed at resolving overlapping maritime boundaries.

The Dominion SUNDAY TIMES newspaper reported Sunday it had been told by Tokelauan leaders that the New Zealand Government put pressure on them to sign the treaty and they did not know at the time they were giving up sovereignty.

The report quoted the Faipule, or mayor, of Atafu, Kuresa Nasau, as saying that giving up Swains was "a great wrong" and he would raise the issue at the next inter-atoll meeting in April. It also quoted Tokelau's director of agriculture and fisheries, Foua Toloa, whose family has strong links with Swains, as saying the issue was so important he was prepared to sail a canoe to the atoll to reclaim it.

The acting Faipule of Nukunonu, Tiani Pasilio, was quoted as saying: "We know Swains belongs to Tokelau. We believe the wool was pulled over our eyes."

New Zealand's sole representative at the 1980 meeting, Chris Beeby, who is now deputy secretary of the external relations and trade ministry, said no pressure had been put on the Tokelauans.

"I made it clear the decision was up to them," he said. The report described Swains as the most fertile and arable of the four atolls and said it was now populated by only 10 people. As recently as 1950 it was believed to have had a population of more than 400. The Tokelau group has a total population of about 1,700.

Tokelau has no telephones and no commercial radio. A supply ship takes six weeks to travel between the islands. The Tokelauan leaders said the poor communications were the reason the Swains issue had been dormant for 10 years.

Budget Deficit To Reach 1 Billion Dollars

BK0511121290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Article by Michael Field: "New Zealand's Budget Balloons Into Deficit, BNZ [Bank of New Zealand] in Trouble"]

[Text] Wellington, Nov 5 (AFP)—New Zealand's budget deficit will hit one billion dollars (610 million U.S.) while the Bank of New Zealand (BNZ), majority owned by the government, needs a 620 million dollar (381 million U.S) bailout, Finance Minister Ruth Richardson said Monday.

Speaking at a press conference after the national government's first cabinet since winning elections October 27, Ms. Richardson said 1.2 billion dollars (738 million U.S.) would also have to be borrowed to meet debt repayments.

"There are clearly three shocks in a financial market sense today," Ms. Richardson said, pointing to the BNZ bailout, the "true" budget figures as promised during the election campaign and the debt funding programme.

"Markets will determine the reaction, not politicians, but it is clear that there is going to be an unavoidable impact on wholesale interest rates," she said.

The benchmark five-year government bond fell Monday to close yielding 13.53 per cent, up from 13.08 per cent. On the currency markets the New Zealand dollar rose half a U.S. cent to 61.52 U.S. cents.

Ms. Richardson said the Labour government's July budget had projected a surplus of 89 million dollars (54 million U.S.) which had turned out to be a deficit of 1.02 billion (626 million U.S.).

The minister attributed the budget turnaround to several factors, including the BNZ capital restructuring, which she said the previous government knew would have to be made as it had been under negotiation for months. She said the Labour government had approved expenditure which had not been included in the budget or had been given the go-ahead between July and the elections.

A weaker economic outlook and lower overall expectations for the sale of state-owned assets had also contributed, she added.

Ms. Richardson said it would be necessary to initiate a borrowing programme to cover maturing domestic and foreign debt consisting of bonds worth up to 900 million dollars (553 million U.S.) with 300 million dollars (185 million U.S.) being raised through regular treasury bill sales.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger for his part said the budget figures were "every bit as bad as we might have anticipated," adding that he could not say what their ultimate effect might be.

With BNZ directors flanking him, Mr. Bolger read a statement saying the cabinet had agreed to put 620 million dollars (381 million U.S.) into restructuring the bank which is 75 per cent owned by the government. The Labour government pumped 600 million dollars (369 million U.S.) into BNZ last year.

Mr. Bolger said the bank's latest restructuring had been under discussion by the Labour government but he became aware of it only the day after the polls. "After a careful analysis of the situation, we concur with the BNZ board's view that decisive action is necessary to improve the capital structure of the bank," he said.

In the BNZ deal, the government's cash will be used to separate the bank's under-performing loans from its profitable core businesses.

BNZ Managing Director Lindsay Pyne said a new company will be formed to hold 2.83 billion dollars (1.74 billion U.S.) of the bank's loans, most of them in Australia and under-performing. "This initiative directly relates back to the poor lending practices which led the bank to post its large provisions and consequent loss for the year ending March 1989," Mr. Pyne said.

While the bank's debt provisions for its New Zealand exposure had proved substantially correct, information available in Australia had turned out to be inadequate, he said. "Australia appears to be a year behind New Zealand in the full realisation of the extent of the corporate ill-health which followed the 1987 stock-market crash," Mr. Pyne said.

The portfolio of loans being transferred to the new company comprises 2.28 billion dollars (1.4 billion u.S.) of under-performing loans and 550 million dollars (338 million U.S.) of performing loans and other exposures.

Papua New Guinea

Indonesians May Get 'Hot Pursuit Rights'

BK0511085090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Indonesian troops chasing Irian Jayan rebels may be allowed hot pursuit rights into Papua New Guinea territory under new border security arrangements. Radio Australia's Sean Dorney reports from Port Moresby that Papua New Guinea's defense minister, Mr. Benais Sabumei, has returned from a visit to Indonesia saying that the Free Papua Movement, or OPM, will no longer be allowed to use Papua New Guinea territory as sanctuary.

Mr. Sabumei said the new Joint Irian Jayan Border Security Committee, included military officers from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, is to meet regularly. The minister said that whereas in the past hot pursuit was not allowed, now applications from the Indonesians would be considered by Papua New Guinea's National Security Council.

Mr. Sabumei said questions of joint patrols, joint border posts, and other military operations could now be discussed formally between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. He said the OPM would never win international support for an independent Irian Jaya, and it must realize Papua New Guinea's responsibilities were to its own people.

Western Samoa

Opposition Claims Conspiracy in Voting Rights

BK0311052190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0034 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Apia, Nov 2 (AFP)—Western Samoa's goverment is trying to avoid holding general elections next February because they will lose, opposition Samoa National Democratic Party leader Tupua Tamasese Efi claimed here Friday. In a statement he said Prime Minister Tofilau Eti would use last Monday's referendum on universal suffrage to hold onto power. Tupa Tamasese said what the government was trying to do was "devilishly clever but equally doomed to fail."

Western Samoa's political system is currently based on a giving only the holders of family chief or orator titles—known as matai—the right to vote. For the first time since independence in 1962 samoan adults were given a vote this week on whether to bring in universal suffrage and whether to introduce an upper house of parliament.

Results announced Wednesday showed 19,392 people (49 per cent) voted in favour of universal suffrage and 17,464 (44 per cent) against with 2,472 informal votes. Informal votes exceeded the difference, 1,928, between the yes and no votes.

In the statement Tupua Tamasese said the low turnout of the 53,000 registered voters, 74 per cent, had affected the credibility of the result. He claimed 13,862 registered voters did not take part and added to the 21,000 not registered, the two figures made up 47 per cent of all eligible voters, which he put at 74,000.

"After careful consideration of the circumstances, I suspect that the fact that 21,000 eligible voters were not registered was deliberate," Tupua Tamasese said. "Equally I suspect that the voters who registered but were not allowed to vote for one reason or another was deliberate."

(The SAMOA TIMES Friday reported the village of Lalomaunga, one of the home districts of Tupua Tamasese, set up polling booths Monday but no electoral officials arrived and the whole village was left without votes.)

Prime Minister Tofilau Eti said Thursday that as a result of the referendum he would bring in legislation for the next parliamentry system to introduce universal suffrage by elections scheduled for February.

Tupua Tamasese accused the prime minister of lying because in parliament he had said the referendum result would not apply to the next general election. The change in policy was "cynicism at its worst," Tupua Tamasese said. "It is a deliberate and cynical attempt by a government that has lost the public confidence," he said. The government was trying to manouevre the opposition into a position where it would be perceived as opposing the popular will.

Tupua Tamasese said the opposition caucas would meet Monday to discuss the poll but it would continue to deal with the issue on an individual conscience basis. He said he would have been "perfectly happy" with a properly conducted poll producing a pro-universal suffrage result.

"I am not afraid of universal franchise. My fear is that I will be afraid to say I am appalled at the extent some people will go to keep themselves in power."

The prime minister could not be contacted for a response to the opposition leader's claims.